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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Needed: $100M for CUC plan

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

A 20-year master plan by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for the entire CNMI would need at least over $100 million. Yet CUC's only source of funds right now is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. That means CUC needs to come up with more funding sources to address all its water and wastewater projects in the next 20 years.

"The CNMI is facing developments and we don't have the dollars to meet the

See CUC on Page 4

CNMI gets rid of large govt debt

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

» **Torres signs law that halts nearly $1M in annual interest**

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law yesterday an appropriation bill that rids the Commonwealth government of its largest and one of its longest running land compensation obligations to date, two days before its supposed deadline imposed by the Judiciary.

Public Law 20-04, previously known

See CNMI on Page 4

Korea fight is latest conflict for Guam's Chamorros

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— The threatened missile attack by North Korea on Guam has prompted calls for peace from the island's indigenous people, who are weary of yet another conflict after enduring centuries of hostilities.

About one-third of the U.S. territory's 160,000 people identify as Chamorro, the indigenous group that is believed to have migrated to Guam from Indonesia and the Philippines an estimated 3,500 to 4,000 years ago. It is believed to be one of the world's first seaward migrations.

They have since endured

See KOREA on Page 4

Northwest braces for flood of visitors during solar eclipse

By HAL BERNTON
THE SEATTLE TIMES

A corridor that runs from the Oregon Coast to the Idaho border is prime real estate for those seeking clear skies to experience the Aug. 21 solar eclipse.

This zone of totality_more than 60 miles wide_also is fire country that has been baking through intense summer heat. As of Saturday, at least four significant blazes were burning in or close to the zone, and overnight lightning ignited more in advance of cooler weather.

Wildfires and smoky skies are a serious wild card as

See ECLIPSE on Page 4

Cities at or near the total solar eclipse

The total solar eclipse will happen on Aug. 21.

Graphic: Tribune News Service
Source: NASA, OpenStreetMap

FARMERS' WEEK
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs a proclamation on Monday designating Aug. 14 to 19 as Farmers and Ranchers Week, ending the week with an Agricultural Fair on Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Garapan Fishing Base.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Trump rips into business leaders who resigned from his White House jobs panel.

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ASIA
The death toll in flooding and landslides in South Asia has risen to 245.

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LIFE & STYLE
On the 40th anniversary of Elvis Presley's death, it costs $28.75 to visit his grave.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Motion to acquit Taitingfong denied; govt and defense rest

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A motion yesterday to acquit Jodan Santos Taitingfong was denied, with the judge saying there is no law that requires the victim to identify Taitingfong, who is accused of beating a woman during a robbery at her Micro Beach Hotel apartment in Garapan on July 7, 2016.

Defense counsel Rosemond Santos made the motion for acquittal. In denying the motion, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio said there is no case law to support that the victim must identify the defendant.

The woman failed to identify Taitingfong, 24, in the courtroom during her testimony on Tuesday.

Kim-Tenorio said the video footage taken at Micro Beach Hotel showed that Taitingfong was with the alleged victim at that time and that there was no other person with them.

The judge said the government presented witnesses that identified the man in the video as Taitingfong.

Kim-Tenorio said the prosecution presented enough evidence for the jurors to decide as to the offenses of robbery and aggravated assault and battery.

The government rested its case yesterday after calling in its 15th and last witness.

The defense would not call any witness.

The government's last witness, Anthony Taitingfong, identified the person who was with the alleged victim as his first cousin, Jodan Taitingfong.

Anthony Taitingfong said he was a dispatcher at the Department of Public Safety when detectives showed him the footage.

The prosecution played again the video in the courtroom and the witness identified the defendant as the man walking with the alleged victim.

Dr. Jeramy Scott Devey also testified yesterday how the alleged victim had severe injuries when taken to the Commonwealth Health Center in the early morning of July 7, 2016.

Devey said the alleged victim's face was swollen and her mouth had wounds that required stitches. He said the alleged victim's one front tooth was gone and two other teeth in the front were damaged.

The doctor said an X-ray and CT scan on the victim showed that she had a fracture in the left face but no brain injury.

The doctor said a radiologist, however, expressed possibility of a small amount of bleeding in the brain.

Devey said the alleged victim was stable when taken to CHC, which means that she was not in imminent danger at that time.

Devey said the alleged victim had a headache, dizziness, memory loss, and insomnia, among others—an indication she had concussion or brain injury.

The victim testified that she still has frequent headaches, finds it hard to sleep, and shows other symptoms.

Police detective Jeffrey I. Norita said that in an interview with Taitingfong on July 26, 2016, the defendant admitted being with the masseuse on the early morning of July 7, 2016.

Closing arguments will start today, Thursday, at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio is prosecuting the case, assisted by assistant attorney general Jonathan Glass Jr.

Victim takes the witness stand

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The victim testified Tuesday how she was hit and robbed inside her room on the third floor of Micro Beach Hotel in western Garapan in the early morning of July 7, 2016.

At the ongoing Superior Court jury trial of Jodan Santos Taitingfong, the woman, a Chinese national, however, could not identify Taitingfong in the courtroom. She testified through an interpreter.

Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio, counsel for the government, asked her at least twice to look around the courtroom and say if she recognizes the person who hit her.

The woman looked around the courtroom and stated she could not identify the person.

Taitingfong was seated next to former lawyer Joey Arriola, who was beside defense counsel Rosemond Santos at the defendant's table. Arriola has been assisting Santos in Taitingfong's defense.

Taitingfong has a shaved head. Police said that during the robbery, he was wearing a hat and the video footage showed he had hair.

At the defense's opening statements on Monday, Santos said Taitingfong does not deny that he was with the woman in her room, but that he did not commit the crimes.

As the woman could not identify anyone in the courtroom as the person who attacked her, Tenorio proceeded with other questions.

The woman testified that in the early morning hours of July 7, 2016, she met a possible local man near a restaurant near Micro Beach Hotel.

She said the man asked her if she is a massage therapist and that she replied she is.

The woman said she brought the man to her room for a massage, but as she was holding her bag and unlocked the door, he struck her on the head.

She said she lost consciousness and when she regained consciousness, she was already bloodied in the face and the man was no longer there.

She said she went to the restroom and was horrified to see the blood in her mouth. She said there was blood everywhere in her room.

The woman said she went downstairs and fainted again. When she woke up, she was already in the hospital.

Later in the hospital, a police officer showed her a purse or a bag and she identified it as the one she was carrying when she met the man. She said her purse contained a copy of her passport, some cards, and around $60 cash.

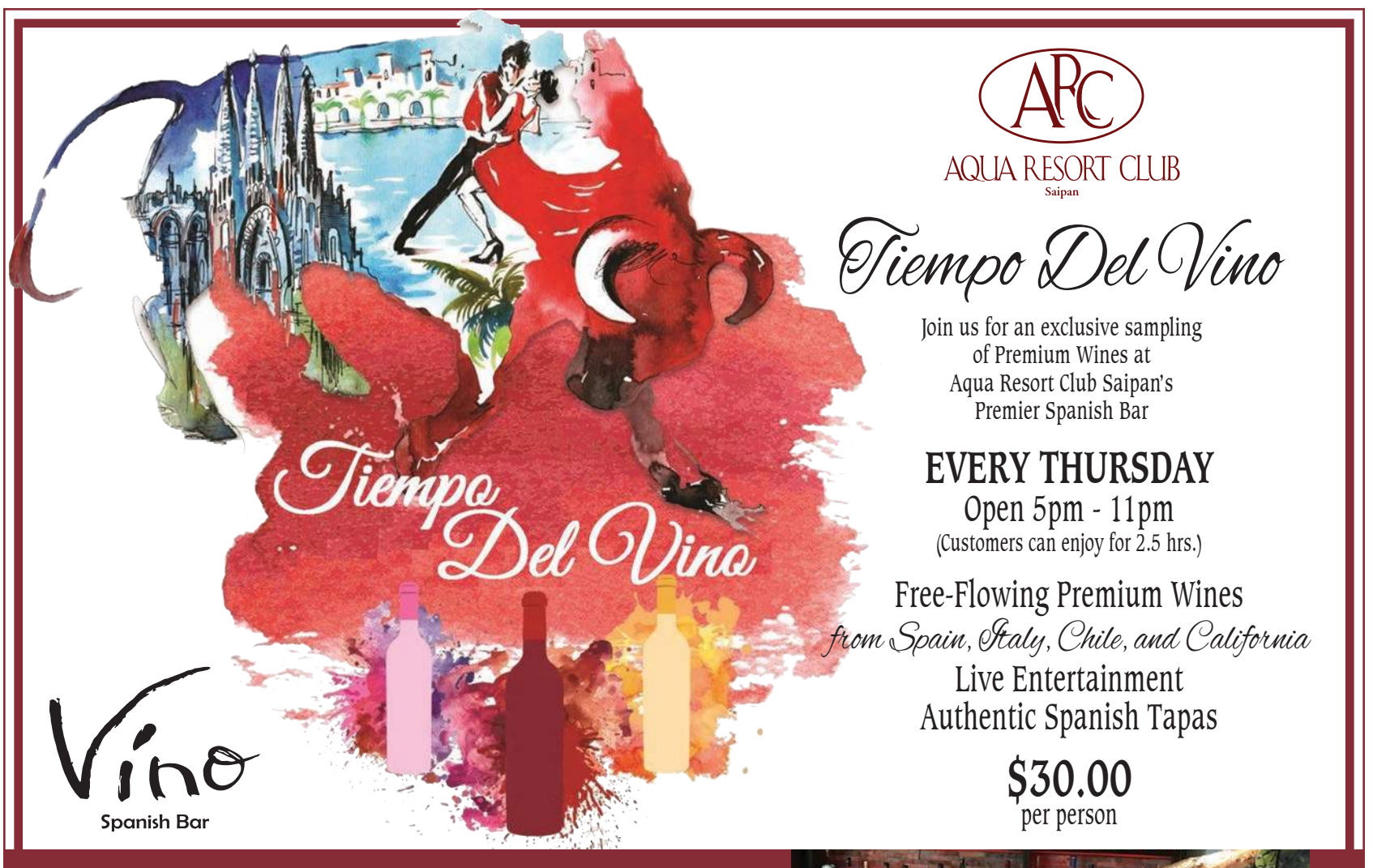
She said she suffered a head injury, swollen lips, and her tooth fell out. She said until now she has constant headaches.

The masseuse said her "sensation is paralyzed" and that for over a year she could not eat solid food.

"It is terrible and I'm very afraid," she said, adding that sometimes she could not sleep at night.

The alleged victim said she does not know why the man hit her.

See VICTIM on Page 4



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Aug. 13-19 is ESGR Week

The week of Aug. 13 through 19 has been designated as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, to highlight the importance of the support employers extend to Army Reserve employees.

During a proclamation signing last Tuesday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said it is important to appreciate the employers who understand the special circumstances that come with hiring an Army Reserve or National Guard.

According to Torres, these employers understand that these individuals may come and go for weeks or months at a time.

There are many servicemen on the islands who also serve their country in the Army Reserve or in the National Guard. These men and women are constantly on call against supposed threats or to lend a helping hand in response to disasters around the world.

Individuals who serve as a reserve or in the National Guard live normal lives while awaiting their next mission. While on standby, these individuals take up civilian jobs.

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves, an agency under the U.S. Department of Defense, honors those employers who let these individuals attend to their military duties, while keeping their position on hold until their return. The ESGR works to support reservists and National Guard members through the security of a civilian job when they are called to duty.

ESGR Guam-NMI chair David J. Sablan, who was present during the proclamation signing, said it is important to recognize these servicemen and their dedication in protecting the country. It is also important that these servicemen are sure that the government cares for their wellbeing despite the tough economic times.

According to Sablan, to show their appreciation to the employers, the agency will take 25 local employers for a ride on a KC-135 refueling jet to show them the process of re-fueling B1 bombers.

ESGR also held an awarding ceremony last Tuesday at the Aqua Resort Club to recognize five employers who support the ESGR mission. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

CHCC avails of language interpreting service

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

In a bid to give its patients much improved experience and care, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is planning to launch a language line service to help doctors communicate with patients effectively.

CEO Ester Muña said a language line is actually already programmed in CHCC. "We can actually implement it now but we just to need undergo training so everybody can use it," she said.

A language line—essentially an on-demand interpreting service—breaks language barriers that hinder doctors from communicating well with patients, especially during the most challenging and critical times of treatment.

The language line will be available effective next week. CHCC hired a U.S.-based company called CLI to handle this project.

"We contracted with CLI, which renders telephone interpreting services. There will be 10 units available and then we can add on. We will be putting up units at every section at CHCC such as in clinics and wards. We will extend this service to Rota and Tinian eventually," Muña said

CLI contracts exclusively with experienced professional interpreters. They guarantee that the interpreters are skilled professionals with knowledge of the medical industry.

Muña said CHCC will get the certified languages like Tagalog, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese and will acquire other languages if needed.

"We have staff that are bilingual that are ready to help out. We also invite interpreters and we would have an agreement with them through CLI. These are people who are actually certified in the language, especially in the issues of medical."

"Our other concern was accessibility. CLI provides 24/7, on-demand telephone interpreting services," Muña added.

The call to CLI will be initiated by an authorized personnel of CHCC and not by the patient.

"The doctor and medical staff such as nurses will make the calls. They will talk to an operator over the phone in front of the patient, then the operator will interpret," Muña said.

Aside from improving services, the language line is CHCC's response to patient complaints.

"We want to be sure that the interpretation is correct. Having CLI provide a language line for us, we are assured that the interpreter does not put an opinion within the conversation. The interpreter will just simply repeat what the physician or nurse has told the patient and vice versa," Muña said.

"This is one of the things that we are opening up and the community can expect more services from us," she added.

MASTER PLAN BEA CABRERA

Kenneth Rekdahl of Duenas Camacho & Associate, consultants of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., presents the water and wastewater master plan of the CNMI for the next 20 years at a public hearing last Aug. 15, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Convicted man in $850K 'ice' case seeks return of $1,130 cash, suitcase seized by DEA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man who is in federal prison due to a methamphetamine or "ice" case now claims that the U.S. government refuses to return $1,130 and other items seized from him on Saipan in 2015.

Xi Huang asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the return of his $1,130, and a suitcase with his clothes and wallet.

Huang is serving 15 years and eight months in prison over the shipment of methamphetamine or "ice" then worth $850,000.

Huang said the court has jurisdiction to entertain motion to return property seized by the government when there are no criminal proceedings pending against the movant.

He said Kirk F. Johns, a special agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration assigned to DEA Saipan, arrested him on Dec. 4, 2015, for possession with intent to distribute "ice."

During a search of his hotel room, Johns found his suitcase containing his personal property and a wallet, Huang said. He said the wallet contained $1,130 in cash. He said Johns seized the money and the suit and brought them to the DEA Office in Garapan.

Huang said he attempted to have his suitcase and money returned to him, but Johns only returned his cell phone to his brother.

Since the conclusion of his case, Huang said he has attempted to recover his property taken from his hotel room, but has been unsuccessful.

Huang pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. He was sentenced in August 2016.

A routine Customs inspection at the Port of Saipan of a 40-foot container from China resulted in the discovery of 4.9 lbs of "ice" hidden in three plastic bags in one of the nine 5-gallon paint containers on Dec. 2, 2015.

Joint federal and local enforcers investigated the shipment, resulting in the arrest of Huang and two co-defendants.

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US Navy presents EIS supplement

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The U.S. Navy presented yesterday to the CNMI government as well as other key government stakeholders a plan to include a supplementary Environmental Impact Statement to the 2015 version.

The supplemental EIS, expected to be completed by the end of the year, began its scoping period last July 28, 2017; it will end on Sept. 15, 2017.

Led by Commander Pacific Fleet environmental program manager John Van Name, the presentation was made to the Legislature yesterday at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

According to Joint Region Marianas spokesman Brad Ruszala, the presentation was merely to inform the CNMI government of the U.S. Navy's "intent to submit" a supplemental EIS.

"This is really a courtesy to go to all of the different offices and the stakeholders in the area and give them a basic briefing without all of the facts yet," he said.

"By the end of this year, we should submit something that [has] a little bit more information on what the proposal would entail," said Ruszala. The proposal would be open to public comments as well.

According to documents provided by the Navy, the EIS supplement would update the 2015 EIS analysis with "revised acoustic effects criteria and updated species densities" as well as "new scientific research."

The 2015 EIS would also be updated with new information provided by the EIS supplement.

The new information is not expected to change the conclusions reached in the 2015 final EIS, Record of Decision, Endangered Species Act consultation, or Marine Mammal Protection Act authorization.

The EIS supplement is necessary to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and former president Jimmy Carter's executive order 12114, by reassessing the environmental impacts evaluated in the 2015 EIS.

"The EIS supplement addresses training and testing activities associated with new weapons and systems expected to reach initial operating capability between 2020 and 2025" as well as "adjustments to training and testing activities associated with changes in mission requirements," the documents specified.

The U.S. military has been using Farallon de Medinilla as a live-fire training facility since the early 2000s.

ECLIPSE

From Page 1

Oregon prepares for eclipse watchers. Oregon officials estimate that as many as 1 million people could converge on the state, creating record traffic jams and vastly complicating responses to fires or any other emergencies.

"We are working with all the fire agencies to be strategic about where resources are staged," said Nathan Garibay, emergency services manager for Deschutes County in central Oregon. "But please don't park on roadsides, because that could easily create a situation where there is no place for emergency vehicles to go. And be patient."

At the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, another place that will draw visitors, fire crews worked in recent days to contain a fire just north of the zone of totality. The blaze destroyed several structures and threatened 140 homes as it burned through juniper, grass and dense stands of ponderosa pine.

Fire maps Saturday also marked blazes south of Antelope, a town in central Oregon in the zone of totality. By Saturday, the lightning strikes, along with forecast winds, helped push the region to the highest of five levels that help assign firefighting resources, according to John Saltenberger, fire- weather program manager for the Portland-based Northwest Interagency Coordination Center.

Aside from the safety risks of fires, smoke could frustrate those seeking a clear view of the Aug. 21 midmorning eclipse as the moon passes between the sun and the Earth. The sun will go dark about 10:20 a.m. local time.

In the viewing areas near fires, winds could flush out much of the smoke, but it could still linger in low spots.

KOREA

From Page 1

colonization by Spanish settlers, bloody skirmishes during World War II and a steady escalation of American military presence on the island. An expert on Guam says it would be "disastrous and tragic beyond words" for the island's indigenous culture if it were targeted in a war between the U.S. and North Korea.

"These islands are the home of the Chamorro people," said Michael Lujan Bavacqua, an assistant professor of Chamorro Studies at the University of Guam. "Literally our bones are buried in the soil."

Chamorros have their own traditions, including open ocean navigation of the kind recently highlighted in the Disney animated movie "Moana" and a Roman Catholic religious heritage introduced by colonizers and missionaries. The Spanish influence began after explorer Ferdinand Magellan arrived on the island in the 16th century.

Some Chamorros gathered at a peace rally this week to try to teach the world about their struggle to protect their ancestors' land, assert their rights as indigenous people and pursue some form of self-governance.

Some women wore traditional floral head crowns called *mwar mwars*. Some men wore loincloths and traditional carved jewelry around their necks. One person blew a shell trumpet, as a summons to rise up.

"It's a call to stand in solidarity not just Chamorro people of this land, but for people all over the world because peace for Guam means peace for the world," said Monaeka Flores, 39, an artist and lawmaker's aide. "If anything should happen here, that's going to be a global war. It's a call to respect the people. And respect the land and to stand in solidarity with us."

The battle for Guam between the United States and Japan during World War II almost completely destroyed Hagatna, the capital city. Not much effort was made to restore during the postwar years.

"You have erased the historical connections of these people. You have destroyed what they have been walking through for centuries," Malia Tony Ramirez, a historian with the Guam Department of Parks and Recreation, said of the three-week battle.

The military's buildup of bases after the war destroyed more historical sites, he said, as did the development of hotels and resorts.

The Chamorro name refers to descendants of the initial people who settled on Guam and smaller, neighboring islands in the Marianas island chain. The U.S. took control of Guam in 1898 after the Spanish-American War. The Navy ruled the island until Japan took control in 1941. The U.S. installed civilian leadership and granted citizenship to Guam residents in 1950.

Today, some Chamorros and others on Guam want the island to be independent or perhaps establish a "free association" relationship like some of its island neighbors have. The free association island states allow the U.S. exclusive military access to their land and waters while their citizens have the right to live and work in the U.S.

Adrian Cruz, an activist and chairman of the Free Association Task Force, said the Chamorro language and traditions have kept his people together for 4,000 years. He said Chamorros will be fine regardless what happens, just like they were during World War II and under the Spanish.

"The Chamorro people are resilient people, and we will survive," Cruz said.

CUC

From Page 1

demand," said CUC deputy executive director William B. Gilmore.

In a public hearing on Monday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Gilmore said: "Right now, we are in a position where we need a lot of projects done and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is our only source of funds."

According to CUC consultant Duenas, Camacho and Associates, CUC needs over $100 million to initiate new projects and finish the existing ones for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

All these projects are projected to result in 24/7 water supply, compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act requirements, and reduction of revenue loss.

"We are trying to look for all solutions such as the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture as grant sources. There is a bill in the Legislature increasing development tax by 2 percent and we hope we can have access to that," Gilmore said.

"We also need the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to make decisions about rate increase. Payment from users covers operational cost only," he added.

The presentation was based on a stipulated order by the court, requiring CUC to make water and wastewater master plans for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The master plan for the three islands has been in the works since 2011.

"In a nutshell, the water and wastewater master plan for the CNMI is the complete assessment of CUC water and wastewater, in coordination with the operators, engineers and management to develop a list of projects that would help CUC to improve the system and to make good decisions in moving forward," said Kenneth Rekdahl, vice president and chief of special projects for Duenas, Camacho and Associates.

"The master plan carries the list of projects that would have to be based on over a 20-year period," said Kenneth Thompson, consultant for Duenas, Camacho and Associates. "That is the plan that CUC has been following for the last four years."

According to Thompson, the master plan has been continuously updated since 2011 and is applicable to the current developments the CNMI is going through.

"This master plan is not just up to 2011. We revisited and looked at all capital projects in 2013 and 2014 just to make sure they are still valid and did updates. We looked at projects that have been completed… so it's been a work in progress."

One community member at the hearing pointed out the non-attendance of any member of the Legislature, which could possibly help with finding solutions to CUC's funding challenges.

To date, CUC continues to implement projects based on how much money is available and having them done as quickly as possible.

"Despite the funding challenges we face, CUC still aims to meet the demands of the public," Gilmore said.

CNMI

From Page 1

as House Bill 20-103 HS1, appropriates a total of $20,713,619.95 to five of the Commonwealth's obligations that have been accruing interest over the years.

P.L. 20-04 addresses five obligations of the government, effectively appropriating $16.3 million to the estate of Maria Mangabao, $2.9 million to the heirs of Rita Rogolifoi, $500,000 owed the estate of Vicente S. Muna, over $900,000 owed the estate of Cresencio I. Manglona, and over $80,000 owed Luisa B. Quitugua.

"I want to again thank the Legislature for passing this bill and express my gratitude to the families who have waited patiently," said Torres in a statement.

"I truly believe our government should live up to its promises, and the payment of these longstanding obligations will allow the CNMI to further address government debts in the near future," he said, adding that he would work with the Legislature to "maintain our commitment to include future appropriations to address the remaining land compensation claims on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

According to Torres, he would be working with the Legislature and the Department of Public Lands to "fulfill payments to all land claimants" and to "ensure that our Commonwealth is in a better financial situation in the long term."

H.B. 20-103 HS1 was not assigned to any committee to expedite its passing. However, each senator representing Tinian and Rota, with the exception of Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), expressed dissatisfaction with the bill as the land payment only addressed those on Saipan.

Hofschneider was off-island during the Senate session.

Sen. Paul Mangloña (Ind-Rota) tried to amend the bill during the Senate session but the body did not accommodate it, hence the singular opposing vote from the Senate. The House unanimously passed the bill.

Superior Court Judge pro tempore Alberto C. Lamorena III ordered the Commonwealth government to pay the Maria Mangabao estate $16.3 million by Aug. 18, 2017.

VICTIM

From Page 2

To refresh the woman's memory about the suspect, video footage of the alleged victim and the suspect entering the Micro Beach Hotel and proceeding to the third floor was played. The woman then described the suspect's clothing and the hat he was wearing. She also said that the man had hair.

The alleged victim identified her bag and the suspect's hat, which were among the pieces of evidence presented in court.

After the woman's testimony, the prosecution called police detective Daniel Maliuyal.

Maliuyal testified that he was then assigned with the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau when the incident happened.

He said he responded and was able to obtain another video footage taken from a building adjacent to the Micro Beach Hotel.

The prosecution then played the video in the courtroom, where the man, who was with the woman, jumped from the railing on the second floor of Micro Beach to the next building. The man then ran downstairs.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom at 4pm, police detective Myron Laniyo was on the witness stand.

Earlier that day, the prosecution called four other witnesses.

Taitingfong in on trial for robbery, and aggravated assault and battery.

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Exchange students learn history, law while on vacation

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho warmly welcomes the students to his courtroom.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For 12 Chinese students visiting Saipan, summer was a chance to practice their English and better understand the American culture and the legal and political systems.

For 10 days this August, local tour group Discover Saipan Tour Co. hosted this group of students, whose ages ranged from 12 to 25.

A foreign exchange program in China called Beijing Shun Shun Step Abroad reached out to Discover Saipan Tour to organize the trips for these young scholars. Some of these students are currently attending classes in China, while others are studying in both the U.S. and Australia.

Although they were not here for a long time, Monique Kramer of Discover Saipan ensured that their trip would be both beneficial and enjoyable. She contacted many offices and individuals to speak to these students and expose them not only to local traditions and culture but also to give them a greater understanding of American law.

This was the fourth year that Discover Saipan has hosted this camp.

This year, Kramer first took them to visit the American Memorial Park and learn about the island's history and involvement in World War II. She brought along a local student to bring them on a tour of the park and the reasons for European, Japanese and American interests in the Marianas.

For the second year in a row, the camp took a field trip to the court of Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho. He told them about his job and allowed them to visit his courtroom. He then answered questions that the students had for him, to give them a greater understanding of what it means to be a judge in America.

The following day, lawyer Samuel Mok met with them at his office to speak about colleges and universities in America and Canada. He also explained what he does as a civil lawyer and gave them the chance to ask him.

They were also able to speak with and hear from an FBI agent later in the week.

The Office of the Saipan Mayor also hosted them for the day to discuss the Mayor David M. Apatang's career and hopes for Saipan's future. They were the first group of Chinese students to visit his office, and he discussed his wishes to increase the number of Chinese foreign exchange programs on Saipan.

The group also visited the *Man'Amko* Center and preformed the CNMI's national anthem. They spoke with residents of the center, and learned some Chamorro words; they also taught the residents some Mandarin. They also planted a variety of vegetables in the center's garden, and Discover Saipan Tour donated a check to the *man'amko*.

In addition to these educational activities, the group was also able to experience an ATV ride and visit a few beaches. They also spent a day at a coconut farm, making *mwar mwars* and watching dances and cockfights. ***(Shea K. Hartig)***

PH consular outreach in Sept.

The upcoming mobile outreach on Saipan of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam will only be able to accommodate 640 applicants who pre-registered for passport renewal.

According to a statement by the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, this consular outreach will only be processing passport renewals and they will only be processing the 640 that pre-registered.

The outreach will be on Sept. 8 to Sept. 11 and will be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

If an individual wants to avail of one of the 640 slots available for the outreach program, they must call the office of Philippine honorary consul to the Commonwealth Glicerio Arago at 233-6293. The individual has to set up the renewal appointment with Mel Santos.

Individuals will be assigned specific dates and time slots and must appear on time as scheduled or the slot will be cancelled. Once the appointment has been cancelled, the individual must await the next scheduled consular outreach. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/FACILITY-22

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 11, 2017 TIME: 11:00 AM
BID OPENING DATE: September 11, 2017 TIME: 1:00 PM

"GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES, FACILITY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/FACILITY-23

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 11, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM
BID OPENING DATE: September 11, 2017 TIME: 2:00 PM

"FUEL & LUBRICATION SERVICES, FACILITY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
RFQ-17-CHCC/CGC-01

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 23, 2017 TIME: 1:00 PM
BID OPENING DATE: AUGUST 23, 2017 TIME: 1:30 PM

"SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) TREATMENT SERVICES, COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER (CGC), COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFQ PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP17-DFEMS-183

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 07, 2017
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SERVICE BILLINGS FOR AMBULANCE RUNS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE MADE OUT TO LT. JOHN T. BLAS AT (670) 664-9136 OR E-MAIL AT jtblas@dfems.gov.mp NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 29, 2017**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
Commissioner, DFEMS

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR
FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDITS FOR FY 2017 AND 2018

MPLT RFP 17-01

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) is soliciting Request for Proposal (RFP) for Financial and Compliance Audit for MPLT for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. Copy of the RFP is available @ www.mplt.gov.mp or may be pick-up at MPLT, 1222 Capital Hill Road, Saipan, MP 96950.
Office Hours: 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday

Contact Barbara Reyes at (670) 322-4401/4402 or email: mplt@mplt.gov.mp for more information.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
4:00 P.M., Tuesday, September 05, 2017

PLACE:
Marianas Public Land Trust
P.O. Box 501089
1222 Capital Hill Road
Saipan, MP 96950

The MPLT reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the Trust best interest. All proposals shall become the property of MPLT.

NMI gets $125K for wildlife conservation projects

More than $125,000 has been awarded to CNMI state wildlife agencies through the state wildlife grants program, according to a statement yesterday from the Office of the Governor.

The statement said that Interior deputy secretary David Bernhardt informed Gov. Ralph DLG Torres of the awarding of the grant.

Provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the state wildlife grants program provides federal funds to states and territories for the development and implementation of programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished. Projects funded through state wildlife grants program involve research, monitoring, wildlife surveys, species and habitat management and other activities.

Since their initial meeting in Washington, D.C., Torres said he has been in close contact with Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke regarding wildlife and environmental conservation funding for the Northern Mariana Islands.

"I am grateful to Secretary Zinke for his work in helping us secure these funds for the operations of our programs at [the Department of Lands and Natural Resources] and [Division of Fish and Wildlife]. It also allows to allocate additional resources toward the development of new programs that benefit our local ecosystem. I look forward to building on this relationship we have with the Department of Interior as we move forward," Torres said in the statement.

A separate statement from the Department of the Interior quoted Bernhardt as saying: "The Trump administration is working hard with states and local communities to find solutions that are driven at the local level, rather than in Washington, D.C. As a hunter, I know the work of state wildlife agencies is absolutely critical to wildlife conservation in the United States. We're thrilled to be able to collaborate with them, their local communities, and other partners to ensure important fish, wildlife, habitat and cultural needs are met. Tribal and state wildlife grants are foundational to protecting our nation's wildlife legacy, including game and non-game species."

State wildlife grants funds are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program and are allocated to states and territories according to a congressionally mandated formula based on population and geographic area. Grant funds must be used to address conservation needs, such as research, wildlife surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring identified within state wildlife action plans. The funds may also be used to update, revise or modify a state's plan. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TakeCare pays up

TAMUNING, Guam— For the past several weeks, TakeCare has been working closely with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in regards to claims from fiscal years 2012 to 2017.

As a measure of good faith to assist CHCC with their operations, TakeCare has provided a $1 million good faith payment to allow both organizations time to reconcile outstanding claims.

Both organizations came to a mutual agreement that, while claims are being reconciled, there would be no disruption in services for TakeCare members.

"We look forward to our continued relationship with CHCC as we work together to reconcile claims to ensure accuracy," the insurance company said in a statement yesterday.

TakeCare's health plans have 30,000-plus members. ***(PR)***

SCS Open House tonight

Saipan Community School is hosting its annual Open House and Parent Orientation Night tonight, Aug. 17, starting at 6pm. Parents and students are encouraged to attend as well as members of the community interested in learning more about the school.

The Open House will include a brief introduction to the SCS teachers, staff, and administration. Students and parents should meet in the church at 6pm for a general assembly before proceeding to individual classrooms. Teachers will be available in their classrooms to discuss goals for the school year, curriculum, and co-curricular activities such as Math-Court, STEM Fair, National Junior Forensic League, Spelling Bee, Primary Grade Forensic Competition, and Mock Trial, as well as athletic events.

SCS is a private Christian school that was established in 1976 as the first Protestant school on the island. SCS offers a U.S. curriculum taught in English and has been consistently recognized over the years for developing academic excellence and character in a family friendly atmosphere.

If you are interested in learning more about SCS and/or the learning opportunities we offer from Kindergarten through 8th grade contact school principal Amanda Dunn via email at principal@saipancommunityschool.com, call 234-6687, or visit SCS on Beach Road in Susupe. ***(PR)***

PM sessions for leadership seminars

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions are opening an afternoon session for its "Supervisory Leadership" seminars.

The afternoon sessions will be held today, Aug. 17, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm, for Part 1 and Sept. 21, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm, for Part 2.

The two-part training seminar teaches supervisors and team leaders the essential skills to lead others in the workplace. Effective supervisors can make the difference between the success or failure of a company. Training your supervisors allows you to instill your company mission and values in your leaders, who pass them on to the frontline workers. Take advantage of this opportunity to train your new supervisors and sharpen the skills of your experienced ones.

During Part 1 of this course, participants will learn how to communicate effectively, embrace their new role and assert leadership, and identify and manage problems using a step-by-step process. In Part 2, participants will learn how to amplify strengths in each team member to maximize productivity and success, how to empower and motivate others, and how to manage diversity in the workplace.

The Supervisory Leadership training seminar will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room on the third floor of Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315. Part 1 is set for today, Aug. 17, 2017, and Part 2 is set for Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017. Registration fee for each course is $50 per person for Chamber members and $55 per person for non-members. Prepay for both courses and receive a $10 discount, $90 (member fee) or $100 (non-member fee)!

Participants will walk away with knowledge and tools that can be implemented immediately. There is no better time to invest in your employees! Take advantage of our special offer by signing up for both courses. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required, as seating is limited. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email us at coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

BACK TO SCHOOL
STUDENTS GET MORE
$30 monthly
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Get a FREE BLU R1 PLUS and 3GB of 4G LTE data with unlimited talk and text on the IT&E Student Plan.
NATIONAL OFFICE SUPPLY
$25
gift certificate with every Student Plan activation*
IT&E
ITE.CNMI
*Terms & conditions apply. See stores for details.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Attempted kidnapping

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for an attempted kidnapping in San Antonio, Saipan.

On Monday, Aug. 14, 2017, at 1:02pm, police responded to a residence on Liguan Avenue in San Antonio and met with the victim's mother. It was learned that the victim, a 9-year-old girl, was outside her house when the suspect, described as a male wearing a white shirt, white hat, and Capri pants was holding a candy and calling the victim to his car.

The suspect's car was parked about 25 feet southeast of the residence on the shoulder of the road next to a building, with his left rear door open. The victim became scared and ran back into the house, informing her mother who contacted the police.

The victim described the suspect as light-skinned and had a bald head, with little white hair on his beard. The suspect had a silver wristwatch and his right hand was holding a blue candy box.

The suspect's car was described as a gray Toyota Yaris with light tint.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

FOND FAREWELL
CNMI Judiciary officials and employees bid farewell to outgoing CNMI Bar Association executive director Suzanne Steffy. Back, from left: Heather Barcinas, Office of the Attorney General; Irene San Nicolas, Supreme Court; Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro; Suzanne Steffy, CNMI Bar Association; Attorney General Edward Manibusan; and Eulalia Arriola, CNMI Bar Association. Seated, from left: deputy attorney general Lillian A. Tenorio; Frieda Demapan, OAG; Keola Fitial, OAG; and Hyunjae Lee, Supreme Court. After 11 years, Steffy will be leaving the CNMI shortly.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Water outage in Chalan Laulau, Gualo Rai

There is an emergency water service interruption in the Chalan Laulau and Gualo Rai areas due to a leak on the Isley booster pump.

Water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are currently making the necessary repairs and anticipate completion by 4pm yesterday afternoon. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services this morning at 6am as per water schedule hours.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

Power outage on Middle Road this Sat.

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017, from 5:30am to 10:30am.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace two wooden power poles with concrete poles along Middle Road. This is part of an ongoing Hazard Mitigation Project that involves the replacement of 787 wooden poles with concrete poles.

A total of 301 wooden poles have been replaced with their corresponding pole size. The remaining 486 are to be replaced with their corresponding concrete pole size.

Middle Road (including SRC Building, Micronesian Marine, Auto Steam, JY Car, Best Seller, McDonald's, Saipan Vegas, I Love Saipan, IT&E, Amara P1., Rhoo Loop, Docomo, and Payless Shoe Source) will be affected by Saturday's power interruption.

Travelers are encouraged to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (hnps://www.facebook.comlCommonwealthUtilities-Corporationl). ***(CUC)***

Michelsen is named BOH's Palau manager

Michelsen

Christina Michelsen has been promoted to Bank of Hawaii vice president and Palau manager.

Michelsen has led and managed Bank of Hawaii's Koror branch in the West Pacific region since November 2016. In addition to branch management, her roles and responsibilities have expanded to include sales, service, compliance and risk management, and is the primary liaison with community leaders in that region.

She joined the bank in 1987 and has held a variety of leadership positions on Oahu and in the West Pacific, including branch manager, personal banking officer, and business banking officer. Her experience in the West Pacific includes nearly 17 years of building relationships with customers, businesses, and the community.

A graduate of Bethania Seminary High School, she went on to earn her bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Southern Maine at Portland-Gorham. She is also a graduate of the Norman Morris Auditing School in New Hampshire. Michelsen is a member of the Rotary Club of Palau, treasurer of the Trilogy at the Vineyard Tennis Club, and supports the community by participating in Bank of Hawaii's Live Kōkua Volunteer Program. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Rane Angeline Ben, who celebrated her special day on Aug. 15, 2017! We've watch you grow into a beautiful young lady you are today. And with each passing year, you continue to blossom even more. We wish you a belated happy 15th birthday. We love you! Greetings come you family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OES to host Open House

Oleai Elementary School will be hosting an Open House for school year 2017-2018. Open House will take place in your child's respective classrooms on the following dates and grade levels, as follows:

- Kindergarten to 2nd Grade: Aug. 17, from 5pm to 6pm
- 3rd Grade to 5th Grade: Aug. 18, from 5pm to 6pm

Important information will be discussed with your child's teacher during the open house. Parents and guardians are encouraged to participate in this important event and ALL other school activities within the school year. ***(PR)***

Class of 1987 gears up for 30-year reunion

The Marianas High School Class of 1987 will be having its 30th-year class reunion on Sept. 23. The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from. A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill. To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.com or join the CNMI Class of '87 Facebook for updates on the reunion event and/or to request for ticket. ***(PR)***

Garapan Fishing Base parking lot closed

The Garapan Fishing Base parking lot to the immediate west of the Thursday Night Market will be closed until Aug. 19. The Division of Agriculture will be using this area to prepare for the upcoming Agriculture Fair on Aug. 19, 2017. The Garapan Fishing Base boat ramp will still be open for boating access. ***(PR)***

Free cat adoption month

Saipan's animal welfare group, Saipan Cares for Animals, is hosting a free cat adoption month until the end of August. All cat and kitten adoptions are free until the end of the month on Aug. 31. Call Beth at 285-5448 or visit www.SaipanCaresforAnimals.com to find out more. You can also visit Saipan Cares for Animals on Facebook for directions on how to get there! ***(CSA)***

NMTI to host outreach events

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute, in collaboration with governor's Youth Services, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Division of Youth Services, and precinct representatives, is hosting outreach events designed to help students learn a new trade and earn a job. Staff will be available to explain their programs and help fill out forms. The events will take place at:

- Aug. 17, Thursday, 5pm - 7pm, Chalan Kanoa Youth Center/Koban (close to Mt. Carmel cemetery)
- Aug. 18, Friday, 5pm - 7pm, Garapan Community Center (next to the Garapan basketball court)

For more information, call Mae Guerrero at 235-6684. ***(PR)***

Notice to all Kagman farm plot permittees

The Department of Land and Natural Resource agents will be conducting scheduled visits as well as permitting inspections to all Kagman farm plots to determine whether permittees are in compliance with the rules and policies. In order to address issues with violations, DLNR has already begun issuing eviction notices to any permittee engaging in the subleasing or transferring of farm plot(s) to a corporation or partner. This includes the use of the plots to cultivate forbidden substances. Call the DLNR-Division of Agriculture if there are any questions or concerns to this notice at 256-3318/19 or 322-9834. ***(PR)***

Saturday Story Time in August at AMP

Youth of all ages are invited to join the American Memorial Park on Saturdays (Aug. 19, and 26) from 2pm to 3pm for story time. During the hour, read *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr. Following the reading, everyone will be invited to make paper cranes, just like Sadako did in the story. Throughout the month, 1,000 paper cranes will be folded and sent to the Children's Peace Memorial in Hiroshima Japan. To learn more about this program or other happenings at the park, contact park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ***(NPS)***

US Navy releases new input dates

The U.S. Navy will accept public comments about the Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact statement for the Mariana Island Training and Testing area until Sept. 15, 2017. Comments must be postmarked or received online by Sept. 15, 2017, for consideration in the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted online at www.MITT-EIS.com or mail to: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 258 Makapala Drive, Suite 100 Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134. ***(PR)***

VA benefits outreach on Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration will be visiting Saipan on Aug. 31, 2017, and will be conducting a benefits workshop/claims clinic and outreach at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The workshop/claims clinic will be from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Veterans will also be meeting one-on-one with the benefit counselor from 12:30pm to 3:30pm. Workshop topics include VA benefits, loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation & employment, death benefits & education benefits. Counselors will be available to answer questions and assist with the claim process. ***(PR)***

NMC info session tonight

The Northern Marianas College is reminding all individuals interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers to attend its information session that will be held today, Aug. 17, in Room D1 on campus from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Those who attend the session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall 2017 semester, a savings of about $75.

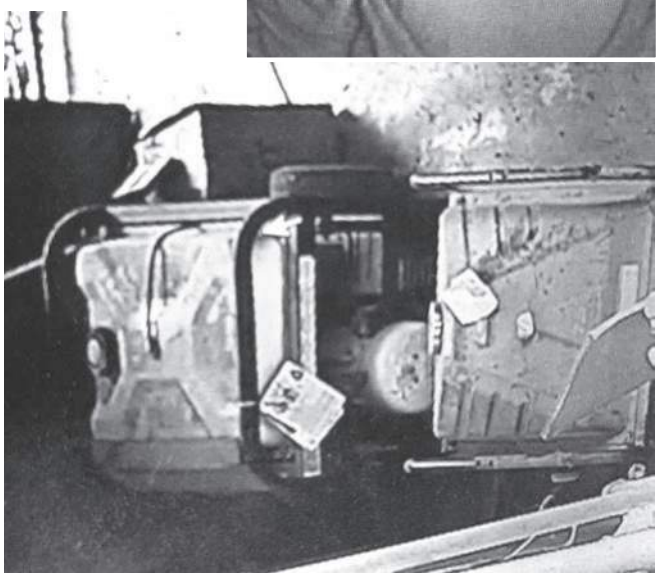
In addition to admissions and financial aid, the college will also be sharing information about degree programs and the Prior Learning Assessment, which awards college credit for demonstrable college-level learning obtained outside the traditional classroom setting.

The college will also afford participants an opportunity to register for classes for the fall 2017 semester. The first day of classes is on Aug. 21, 2017.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management; associate degrees business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, and social work), nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming fall 2017 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Burglary at LC Market caught on tape



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Photo shows the image of the burglar that broke into the LC Market, Gualo Rai, Saipan. Third photo shows samples of the item stolen.

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a burglary incident at LC Market, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

On Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2017, at about 8:46am, police met with the victim (owner), a 30-year-old Asian male. Police learned that the victim had noticed his video surveillance system for the storage room was not working. The victim checked the camera and noticed it was unplugged and a generator was missing. The victim reviewed the surveillance footage and showed the police video footage of two suspects walking into the storage room and carrying a generator out.

The first suspect is described as a dark-skinned local male wearing a long-sleeved dark shirt, a pair of light-colored shorts, a pair of slippers, and a dark baseball cap. The second suspect is described as wearing a long-sleeved light-colored shirt and a pair of light-colored shorts. The video surveillance is time-stamped Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017, at 23:56 hours (11:56pm).

The stolen generator is described as a yellow two-wheel generator (no brand name available) 8,500-watt diesel/gas engine valued at over $1,000.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or visit the website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Program Officer
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is inviting dynamic, motivated, and self-driven individuals with strong interest in the humanities to submit an employment application for the position of Program Officer.

The Program Officer is responsible for developing and implementing a variety of humanities programs and events and coordinating the Council's Community Grants program under the supervision of the Council's executive director. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). strong analytic, writing and communication skills; (2). knowledge of grants writing and grants administration; (3). the ability to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds; (4). a working knowledge of NMI history and of current political, social and economic issues confronting the local community; (5). basic computer skills including knowledge of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint; and (6). the ability to articulate the Council's mission to a wide range of audiences.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in a humanities discipline from an accredited post-secondary institution. The salary range is from $35,000 to $40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council's Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed résumé; (3). a writing sample (500-800 words on a humanities topic of your choice); and (4). the names and addresses of three references to Scott Russell, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Box 506407, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION: FISCAL OFFICER
PAY-LEVEL: P.L. 28 / STEP 1-10
REPORTS TO: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OVERVIEW:

This is an exempt professional position responsible for the management of office/program fiscal systems including but not limited to all accounts receivables and program expenditures. The Fiscal Officer is selected by and reports to the Executive Director and works under limited supervision within prescribed standards, policies and procedures.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✔ Bachelors Degree (B.A. and/or B.S.) in a field related to work of this position or no less than 120 credit hours from an accredited post-secondary school in areas related to the work of this position;
- ✔ No less than four (4) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of federal and/or state grants management systems and any applicable policies, laws and other relevant regulations; and
- ✔ No less than four (4) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of accounting and/or auditing concepts as they apply to state and federal government funds.

HOW TO APPLY:
Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Guala Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. Deadline for submission of applications packet is on Monday, August 28, 2017 at 5pm. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278 [tty] or email at jrayphand@nmpasi.org.

NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

Opinion

Hafa Adai
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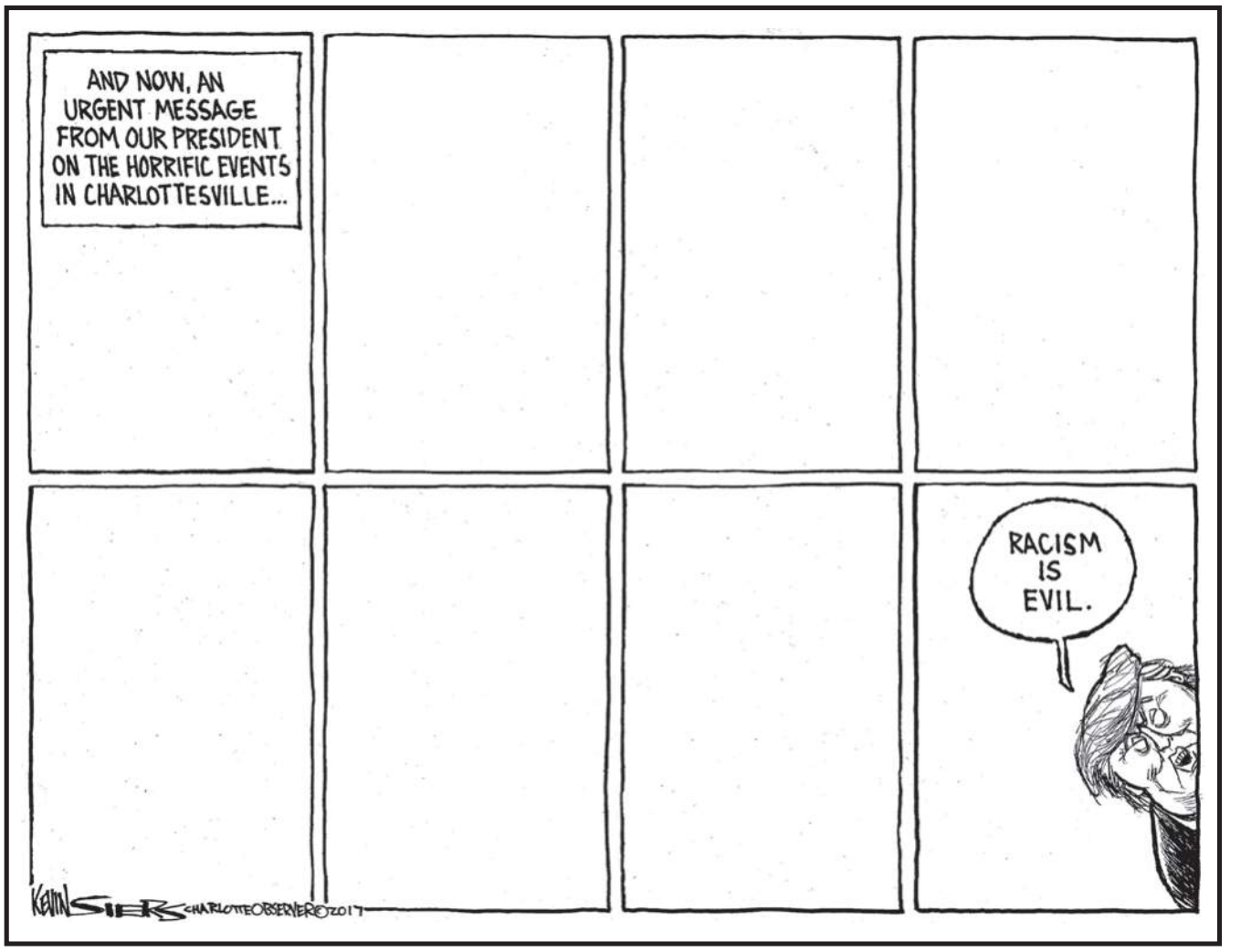
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association


AND NOW, AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT ON THE HORRIFIC EVENTS IN CHARLOTTESVILLE...
RACISM IS EVIL.
KEVIN SIERS CHARLOTTEOBSERVER©2017

EDITORIAL

President Trump takes critical step vs KKK, neo-Nazis, others

President Donald Trump on Monday gave the nation what it had been seeking for two days—a blistering condemnation of the white supremacists at the root of the bloody confrontations over the weekend in Charlottesville, Va.

Trump specifically identified hate groups, calling out the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis and white supremacists in general. He said they are "repugnant" to the ideals held by all Americans. He declared that racism is evil and that people who commit violence in its name are criminals and thugs. And he isolated them further by noting that the true character of Americans is to respond to hate with love.

Trump also promised to hold accountable the perpetrators of the violence. He talked about the Justice Department's preliminary civil rights investigation into the car attack, allegedly by an apparent Nazi sympathizer, that killed a 32-year-old counterprotester; mentioned victim Heather Heyer by name; and conveyed his sympathies to her family and those of the two Virginia state troopers killed in a helicopter crash while monitoring the hate rally.

His words were unequivocal and forceful, and he should be commended for saying them. Trump needed to say them sooner, but it was essential that the nation hear those words coming from its president.

But the context of Trump's remarks matters, too. They came after two days of intense pressure from outside and even inside the White House that he issue a stronger, more pointed condemnation. They came amid falling poll numbers that show erosion even in his base, as Republicans leaders publicly distance themselves. They followed his inexplicable personal attack Monday on the head of Merck & Co. pharmaceuticals, one of the few black chief executives of a Fortune 500 company, who quit a Trump advisory board over his refusal to directly criticize white supremacists. The president was sinking in quicksand of his own making.

The media didn't create this controversy. Trump's dog whistles drew these hate groups to him. Trump fueled the birtherism movement, questioning whether President Barack Obama was a U.S. citizen. He refused to disavow the KKK and claimed he knew nothing about David Duke, the hate group's former imperial wizard. Trump doesn't get a pass for any of that.

And all of that matters—his own long history and most recent remarks—because what happened in Charlottesville sadly will not be the last time he will have to address racial hatred as president. He emboldened these hate groups. One neo-Nazi website initially praised Trump for not blasting its followers for the weekend violence; on Monday, it said Trump was forced to change his tone by the "whining

See PRESIDENT on Next Page

Eclipse 2017: Connectivity and the farthest-reaching party ever

By ROBERT GRABOYES
Tribune News Service

Robert Graboyes is a senior research fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Readers may send them mail at Mercatus Center, 3434 Washington Blvd., fourth floor, Arlington, VA, 22201. This essay is available to Tribune News Service subscribers. TNS did not subsidize the writing of this column; the opinions are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of TNS or its editors.

What hath connectivity wrought? Two eclipses, 47 years apart, tell a small piece of the story and raise questions about spontaneous gatherings in the 21st century.

In the early 1960s, I read an astronomy book that showed a total solar eclipse would pass a few hours from my home on March 7, 1970. I vowed then I would travel to see it; sure enough, seven or eight years hence, a group of us drove south from Petersburg, Va., to Tarboro, N.C., and watched the darkened moon blot out the sun. There was little traffic, and our carload was virtually alone in a field that stretched for miles.

At 99 percent total, the eclipse was pretty interesting. A bluish veil descended over earth, birds made night sounds and the few passing cars had their lights on. But the moment the eclipse reached 100 percent totality was incomparably different from the view a split second earlier—surreal beyond imagination.

Shadow bands—wavy lines like ripples on a pond—stretched for miles across the landscape. The corona surrounding the blackened moon was a ring of pure white brilliance resembling burning magnesium. Only one other time—the birth of my son—have I witnessed anything so miraculous and remote from my life's other experiences. (For the best description I've ever read of the experience, read Bob Berman's "A Total Solar Eclipse Feels Really, Really Weird" at Wired.)

So, a few years back, when I first heard about the total eclipse that will cross America on Monday, I made a similar vow to witness the event. We chose Madras, Ore., because it's the least likely spot to experience clouds. Aware the event was gathering attention, we made hotel reservations a year in advance.

The closest accommodations not yet reserved were 43 miles away, in the town of Bend. No problem, we thought; we'd simply rise early and drive north on the generally empty roads of Oregon's high desert. We asked the tourism bureau in Madras for information about restaurants, restrooms and such, and they kindly proffered information by surface mail and email.

In late spring 2017, the warnings began.

Web articles and emails from Madras advised caution. The drive from Bend, normally 45 minutes, would likely take eight to ten hours. Local authorities suggested driving to Madras the day before and sleeping in cars. Missives warned drivers pulling off the sides of roads not to keep their engines (and air conditioners) running, as running vehicles risk igniting potentially lethal grass fires.

Emergency vehicles, other emails suggested, might not be able to reach distressed drivers having medical episodes. Restrooms would likely be overwhelmed as 1 million visitors and a high percentage of Oregon's 4 million residents cram into the 70-mile-wide path of totality.

The same story, it seems, was playing out across the entire path, stretching from Oregon to South Carolina: tens of millions of people forming 100 Woodstocks simultaneously and contiguously from sea to sea. With the warnings becoming ever more apocalyptic, and not being fond of crowds, my family and I reluctantly decided to cancel our visit to Oregon and miss one of the premier events of a lifetime.

Ironically, the internet that helps people avoid crowds and congestion (think of Google Maps or Waze) is helping to funnel millions into what could be one of the greatest congestion events in history. I suspect that a considerable portion of the crowd will be there not because of any abiding fascination with astronomy, but rather because this is the Era of Connectivity, and all their Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pals are going.

This spontaneous massing for the eclipse is sibling to the frenzy that led to the Fyre Festival catastrophe that left many stranded in atrocious conditions in the Bahamas earlier this year and cousin to the Twitter mobs that instantly destroy the reputations and lives of random strangers who stumble over the wrong person's or group's sensibilities somewhere on social media.

As with Twitter mobs, traffic jams and mega-concerts, I'll continue using the internet to avoid crowds, not plunge into them. Let's see if more follow suit after Eclipsomania.

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Trump's slow walk to condemning white supremacists

By JULIE PACE
AP Washington Bureau Chief

Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace has covered the White House and politics for The Associated Press since 2007. Follow her at http://twitter.com/jpaceDC

WASHINGTON (AP)—It took President Donald Trump two days to do what both Republicans and Democrats said should have come fast and easy.

In his carefully worded statement Monday, Trump condemned members of the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis and white supremacists as "repugnant." He vowed that his administration would crack down on those who perpetrate "racist violence." He called for national unity.

It was the type of statement Americans have come to expect from their presidents after racially charged incidents, like the deadly violence that erupted Saturday in Charlottesville, Virginia. But Trump struggled mightily to meet the moment, glaringly omitting any direct condemnation of white supremacists in his initial comments on the incident and decrying bigotry "on many sides."

As the most unconventional president in modern American history, Trump has at times thrived off low expectations. He is often cheered by Republicans when he fulfills basic functions of the office. And GOP lawmakers in particular have often tried to explain away his missteps as a function of his lack of experience in Washington and politics.

But he has found himself with few allies after his botched handling of the Charlottesville violence. Several Republicans challenged Trump directly to be more strident in calling out white nationalists and neo-Nazis. Colorado Sen. Cory Gardner said the president needed to "step up" and call the groups "evil."

The president got to that place on Monday, declaring that "racism is evil, and those who cause violence in its name are criminals and thugs."

It's unclear whether his cleanup efforts will ease the political pressure he has faced in recent days. In addition to the disapproval from his own party, three members of a White House advisory council—Merck CEO Kenneth Frazier, Under Armour CEO Kevin Plank and Intel CEO Brian Krzanich—announced they were resigning from the panel in protest.

Later Monday, Trump tried to pin the blame for the controversy on one of his favorite targets: the media. He tweeted that the media "will never be satisfied ... truly bad people."

The trouble for Trump is that his struggle in responding to the Charlottesville violence seems to fit a pattern of uncharacteristic caution when it comes to handling racial tensions and condemning the fringe groups that have rallied around his candidacy.

Indeed, it was striking that one of the few signs of support for Trump after his comments Saturday came from the white supremacist website Daily Stormer. The website noted that Trump avoided reporters' questions about whether he condemned the groups leading the protests. "Really, really good. God bless him," the website wrote.

Trump denies that he's racist or sympathetic to such groups. Son-in-law Jared Kushner, the grandson of Holocaust survivors, and daughter Ivanka, who converted to Judaism, are among those who have defended the president against those charges.

Still, he has a history of engaging in high-profile, racially fraught battles.

Early in his career as a developer, Trump fought charges of bias against blacks seeking to rent at his family-owned apartment complexes. He long promoted the lie that the nation's first black president, Barack Obama, was not born in the United States. As a candidate, he proposed temporarily banning Muslims from the United States. He retweeted a post from accounts that appeared to have ties to white nationalist groups. And he was slow to reject the endorsement of former KKK leader David Duke.

Some of the president's friends and advisers have argued that Trump is simply refusing to bend to liberals' desire for political correctness. A boastful, proudly disruptive politician, Trump often has been rewarded for saying impolite and impolitic things. Some supporters cheer him for being someone who says what they cannot.

Democrats frequently assert that Trump sees a political advantage in courting the support of the far right. Indeed, he has benefited politically from the backing of media outlets such as Breitbart or InfoWars. They have consistently promoted Trump and torn down his opponents, sometimes with biased or inaccurate reports.

Charlottesville's mayor, Democrat Mike Signer, said Sunday that Trump made a choice during his campaign to "go right to the gutter, to play on our worst prejudices."

"I think you are seeing a direct line from what happened here this weekend to those choices," Signer said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

White House senior adviser Steve Bannon ran Breitbart before joining Trump's campaign, and several of the president's other aides believe Bannon continues to have influence over the website. In "Devil's Bargain," a new book about his role in the Trump campaign, Bannon is quoted as saying that attempts by Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton to tie Trump to the alt-right and nationalists did not move voters.

"We polled the race stuff and it doesn't matter," Bannon said, according to the book.

PRESIDENT

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Jew media." One white supremacist leader insisted Trump had not condemned his movement. They and other white nationalist leaders proclaimed victory in Charlottesville, and announced plans for more demonstrations and rallies around the country.

This isn't going away. The stain of racism has plagued America for hundreds of years. Real leadership is required in this ongoing struggle. The next time, the nation needs Trump to do the right thing right from the start.

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North Korea, Donald Trump and the ticking Doomsday Clock

By LAWRENCE M. KRAUSS
Los Angeles Times

Lawrence M. Krauss, a theoretical physicist, has been chairman of the board of sponsors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists since 2007. His latest book is The Greatest Story Ever Told ... So Far. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

On Jan. 26, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, whose board of sponsors I chair, reset its Doomsday Clock to 2 minutes, 30 seconds to midnight, the closest it has been to midnight in more than 60 years. At the time, two of the factors we mentioned in making our decision were ominous developments in North Korea, and the frivolous and dangerous language the new American president had employed before his inauguration regarding nuclear weapons and nuclear war.

Many observers have wondered whether the events of the past weeks mean that we are even closer to Armageddon than the bulletin envisaged just seven months ago. We decide whether to move the hands of the clock at designated, annual intervals. At this point, things aren't looking good for the next assessment, in November. North Korea's latest batch of intercontinental ballistic missiles appears to have the capability of reaching the United States, and The Washington Post reported that U.S. intelligence believes Pyongyang has managed to miniaturize its nuclear warheads to fit in the nose of those ICBMs.

This is still a far cry from having true nuclear weapons capability. It's likely the North hasn't met the technical challenge of managing the massive amounts of heat generated when a ballistic missile re-enters Earth's atmosphere headed for its target. Still, Kim Jong Un's military has moved far faster and further in ICBM and nuclear weapons development than many had predicted even a year ago.

In response to these developments, Donald Trump's "fire and fury" statements are, as usual with the president, murky at best. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson quickly tried to dial back the tension by saying Trump's extemporaneous comments were primarily rhetorical. The secretary of Defense, James Mattis, on the other hand, issued his own ominous statement that the North should "cease any considerations of actions that would lead to the end of its regime and destruction of its people." Then on Thursday and Friday, Trump doubled down, saying the U.S. was "locked and loaded" for the confrontation.

Certainly, the fact that Tillerson and the State Department appear to take a back seat in the Trump administration to military solutions cannot be lost on the leadership in North Korea. To step back from the brink, both parties need to be reminded that nuclear war is unwinnable.

Any direct military confrontation between North Korea and the U.S. would be devastating, and the likelihood that a conventional conflict would escalate into nuclear war is sufficiently high to give any rational actor pause. Millions could die in North and South Korea alone. The physical effects would be global (a "limited" nuclear war, using 50-100 weapons, could affect climate and in turn agriculture worldwide, resulting in perhaps a billion deaths over a decade), and the political, economic and social consequences in our integrated world would be equally catastrophic.

North Korea obviously views the actions of the United States, and to some extent those of the rest of the world, as an effort to destabilize the existing regime. Washington needs to make its focus clearly the North's nuclear ambitions, and nothing else. As recently as 2005 (albeit before Kim Jong Un's ascension), the North publicly signed onto the goal of eventual denuclearization of the entire Korean peninsula.

Diplomatic initiatives probably require direct talks, the kind of dialogue President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev conducted. The Trump administration could show that it would take negotiations seriously by backing away from its attacks on another nuclear deal, the Iran agreement, instead of seeking to undo it. And the U.S. could finally use this opportunity to affirm a "no first use" policy, instead of implicitly threatening a pre-emptive strike. Any one of these moves could help turn back the hands of the Doomsday Clock.

Doomsday calculations also must weigh pronouncements like the statement released last week by one of Trump's key evangelical advisors, Robert Jeffress: "God has given Trump authority to take out Kim Jong Un." Perhaps Jeffress is hoping for Armageddon, and a subsequent second coming of Christ. At least Trump appears to be courting the religious right to solidify his political base, not because he actually shares their beliefs. Jeffress' comment would be more worrisome if Mike Pence, a fundamentalist Christian, were president.

Last week marked the 72nd anniversary of the first use of a nuclear weapon against a civilian population, at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Before President Truman dropped the second bomb he warned the Japanese to expect "a rain of ruin ... the like of which has never been seen on this earth," language remarkably similar to Trump's. But Truman knew there would be no retaliation; he could rely on what Trump cannot: a monopoly on atomic weapons.

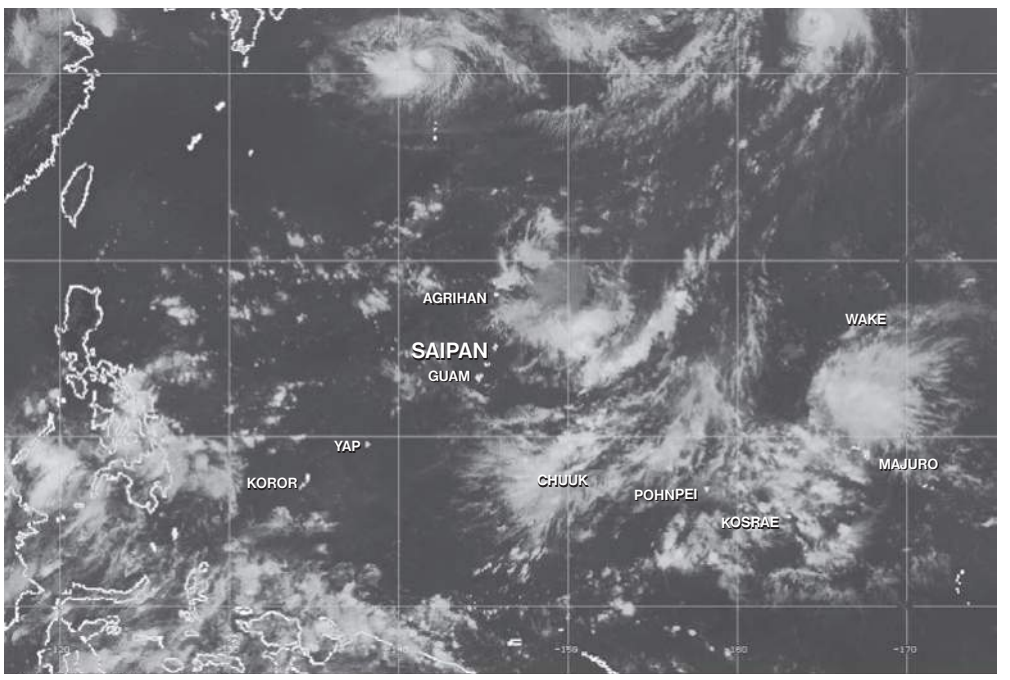
The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and the Doomsday Clock were established by the very physicists who worked on those first bombs, and their successors have continued the task of warning the world of the dangers of nuclear war. However accurately the clock conveys the threat, it cannot make us safe. After Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Albert Einstein said, "Everything has changed, save the way we think." We must pressure our political leaders to adjust their thinking, and their actions, to the horrifying realities we face from nuclear weapons.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:15 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes in forecast, grids or reasoning. Partly cloudy skies will become mostly cloudy a little later this morning. An overall unsettled pattern is expected to continue through Saturday as moist unstable air remains over the region. Thursday night through Friday night, an approaching trough will likely bring scattered showers to the area. Marine conditions will remain relatively benign through the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
London	Showers	73° / 59°
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 39°
Miami	Cloudy	88° / 81°
New York	Mostly Sunny	82° / 73°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Paris	Showers	79° / 64°
Busan	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	95° / 72°
Salem	Thunderstorms	92° / 75°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 57°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	84° / 72°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	82° / 73°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	87° / 75°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:09 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.88
9:41 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.09
4:47 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.64
9:45 PM	LOW TIDE	1.12

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:14 AM	2:24 PM	-
Friday	2:11 AM	3:24 PM	-
Saturday	3:10 AM	4:23 PM	-
Sunday	4:11 AM	5:20 PM	-
Monday	5:12 AM	6:12 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 15, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE584	4:00pm	8:05pm	1, 3, 5
ZE584	4:35pm	8:15pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

ZE583	9:10am	2:40pm	1, 3, 5
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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Business

Business leaders quit Trump panel; he hits back hard

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump on Tuesday ripped into business leaders who resigned from his White House jobs panel—the latest sign that corporate America's romance with Trump is faltering—after his equivocal response to violence by white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia.

"They're not taking their job seriously as it pertains to this country," the president said at an impromptu news conference at Trump Tower in New York City.

After his remarks, a fifth member of his manufacturing panel resigned: AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka, who said in a statement, "We cannot sit on a council for a president who tolerates bigotry and domestic terrorism."

The president denied that his original statement about the violence in Virginia on Saturday—saying "many" sides were to blame, rather than hate groups—was the cause of the departures.

"Some of the folks that will leave, they're leaving out of embarrassment because they make their products outside" the United States, he said as he seemed to double down on his earlier comments.

AP
In this July 20, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump listens as Merck CEO Ken Frazier speaks in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington.

Trump also assailed the CEOs who left on Twitter as "grandstanders" and said he had plenty of executives available to take their place. The president added that he believes economic growth in the U.S. will heal its racial divide.

But the parade of departing leaders from the informal panel seems closely linked to how the president responded to events that led to the death of a counter-protester that opposed the white supremacists.

Among those who've left are the chief executives for Merck, Under Armour and Intel and the president of the Alliance for American Manufacturing.

Alliance president Scott Paul, in a tweet, said simply, "I'm resigning from the Manufacturing Jobs Initiative because it's the right thing for me to do." Within minutes of the tweet on Tuesday, calls to Paul's phone were being sent to voicemail.

Wal-Mart CEO Doug McMillon joined the chorus, saying in a note Monday to employees, "(We) too felt that he missed a critical opportunity to help bring our country together by unequivocally rejecting the appalling actions of white supremacists."

But McMillon, whose business has customers on all sides of the political spectrum, plans to stay on a separate Trump advisory panel and said that the president's follow-up remarks on Monday that named white supremacists were a step in the right direction.

Corporate leaders have been willing to work with Trump on taxes, trade and reducing regulations, but they've increasingly found themselves grappling with cultural and social tensions amid his lightning rod-style of leadership. The CEOs who left the council quickly faced his wrath, while those who have stayed have said it's important to speak with the president on economic issues.

Like several other corporate leaders, Alex Gorsky, chairman and CEO of Johnson & Johnson, said that intolerance and racism have no place in U.S. society but that he intended to stay on the manufacturing council.

"We must engage if we hope to change the world and those who lead it," he said in a statement.

A White House official downplayed the importance of the manufacturing council and a separate policy and strategy forum featuring corporate leaders. The official, who insisted on anonymity to discuss private conversations, said the panels were informal rather than a set body of advisers. The departures, the official said, were unlikely to hurt the administration's plans to overhaul taxes and regulations.

Many corporate leaders have faced a lose-lose scenario in which any choice involving politics can alienate customers, not to mention a U.S. president who has shown a willingness to personally negotiate government contracts.

Trump signs order to speed infrastructure construction

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump said Tuesday he has signed a new executive order intended to make more efficient the federal permitting process for construction of transportation, water and other infrastructure projects without harming the environment.

Trump's order includes revoking an earlier executive order signed by President Barack Obama concerning projects built in flood plains, White House officials said. The Obama order required that such projects built with federal aid take rising sea levels into account. Trump has suggested the predicted risks from sea level rise driven by climate change are overblown.

Describing his action, Trump said projects will still be subjected to environmental safeguards.

"It's going to be quick, it's going to be a very streamlined process," Trump said. "And by the way, if it doesn't meet environmental safeguards, we're not going to approve it. Very simple. We're not going to approve it."

Building trade groups had urged Trump to revoke the flood plain order, saying it was overly bureaucratic and increased the cost of projects. The Obama order was especially unwieldy because it didn't standardize across the government how sea level rise was to be taken into account, which left each federal agency to come up with its own standards, said Jimmy Christianson, an attorney with the Associated General Contractors.

A recent draft of an upcoming report from scientists representing 13 federal agencies say sea levels along U.S. coastlines could rise by more than one foot on average by 2050, potentially more in the Northeast and western Gulf of Mexico. A projected increase in the intensity of hurricanes in the North Atlantic will increase the probability of "extreme coastal flooding."

Environmentalists said Tuesday that ignoring the reality of the Earth's changing climate is shortsighted.

"What this order will do is ensure that we will waste more taxpayer money because federal agencies will no longer have to consider long-term flood risks to federally funded infrastructure projects," said Jessica Grannis, who manages the adaptation program at the Georgetown Climate Center.

The president, speaking at a news conference at Trump Tower in New York, said it can cost hundreds of millions of dollars and 17 years to approve an ordinary highway project because of burdensome regulations. Under Trump's order, agencies must complete environmental reviews of projects within two years on average. Trump signed another executive order on streamlining environmental and public reviews of infrastructure projects his first week in office.

"We used to have the greatest infrastructure anywhere in the world. And today we're like a third-world country," Trump said, using a term referring to the economically developing nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao has said that regulations, not a lack of funding, are a primary holdup faced by transportation infrastructure projects. But a Treasury Department report released earlier this year found that "a lack of public funding is by far the most common factor hindering completion" of major transportation and water infrastructure projects.

Dangerously cheesy? Cheetos pop-up restaurant opens in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Gourmet fun or just plain cheesy?

A three-day pop-up restaurant devoted to Cheetos, yes Cheetos, opened in Manhattan on Tuesday, with every table already booked with diners ready to pay between $8 and $22 for such creations as Cheetos meatballs, Cheetos crusted fried pickles, Cheetos tacos, Mac n' Cheetos and even Cheetos cheesecake.

"I worked hard to incorporate Cheetos into every dish and not just say, 'Oh here's a dish with a sprinkle of Cheetos on top,'" said spiky-haired celebrity chef Anne Burrell, who was given the task of coming up with the menu for The Spotted Cheetah. "I really tried to think about the flavor of each Cheeto and what would pair really well with it."

But the question seemingly on everyone's orange-coated lips is: Why?

Makers of the popular puffed cornmeal snack say the pop-up was the deliciously shrewd result of whimsy and marketing after executives noticed Cheetos fans posting their own recipes incorporating the crunchy treat on social media.

"So we thought it was a great trend to try to capitalize on and bring to life an idea, a concept like this really that spoke to how you could use Cheetos in such a variety of different ways," said Ryan Matiyow, a marketing manager for Frito-Lay, a unit of PepsiCo. He said the 300 reservations available for the eatery's three nights sold out within six hours.

Burrell, host of Food Network's "Worst Cooks in America" and other programs, showed off some of her dishes as her staff scrambled to prepare the food and set places in a dining room decorated with swaths of orange fabric and images of brand mascot Chester the Cheetah.

Crumbled Cheetos are part of the breading on chicken Milanese and fried green tomatoes. A garnished Cheetos beverage accompanies a grilled cheese, tomato and bacon sandwich that gets an extra crunch from Cheetos. Desserts feature the cinnamon sugar Cheetos variety known as Sweetos.

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0.02%)	-0.05%	-0.11%

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Australian Dollar	1.28	Hong Kong Dollar	7.82	Russian Ruble	59.76
British Pound	0.78	Indian Rupee	63.74	Singapore Dollar	1.37
Canadian Dollar	1.28	Japanese Yen	110.64	South Korean Won	1,114.28
Chinese Yuan	6.56	Malaysian Ringgit	4.25	Swiss Franc	0.97
Euro	0.85	New Zealand Dollar	1.38	Taiwan Dollar	29.74
		Philippine Peso	50.31	Thailand Baht	33.23

Nation

Defiant Trump insists anew: Blame both sides for violence

NEW YORK (AP)—Combative and insistent, President Donald Trump declared anew Tuesday "there is blame on both sides" for the deadly violence last weekend in Charlottesville, Virginia, appearing to once again equate the actions of white supremacist groups and those protesting them. He showed sympathy for the fringe groups' efforts to preserve Confederate monuments.

The president's comments effectively wiped away the more conventional statement he delivered at the White House a day earlier when he branded members of the KKK, neo-Nazis and white supremacists who take part in violence as "criminals and thugs."

Trump's advisers had hoped those remarks might quell a crush of criticism from Republicans, Democrats and business leaders. But the president's retorts Tuesday suggested he had been a reluctant participant in that cleanup effort and renewed questions about why he seems to struggle to unequivocally condemn white nationalists.

AP

President Donald Trump speaks in the lobby of Trump Tower in New York, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017.

The blowback was swift, including from fellow Republicans. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida said Trump should not allow white supremacists "to share only part of the blame." House Speaker Paul Ryan declared in a tweet that "white supremacy is repulsive" and there should be "no moral ambiguity," though he did not specifically address the president.

Trump's remarks were welcomed by former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, who tweeted, "Thank you President Trump for your honesty & courage to tell the truth."

Violence broke out Saturday in Charlottesville, a picturesque college town, after a loosely connected mix of white nationalists, neo-Nazis and other far-right extremists assembled to protest the city's decision to remove a towering statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Heather Heyer, 32, was killed when a man plowed his car into a crowd of counter-protesters.

In the immediate aftermath, Trump placed the blame on "many sides." On Monday, at the urging of his aides, he delivered a more direct condemnation of white supremacists. But he returned to his original arguments Tuesday during an impromptu press conference in the lobby of his Manhattan skyscraper, declaring "there are two sides to a story."

He acknowledged there were "some very bad people" looking for trouble in the group protesting plans to remove the statue. "But you also had people that were very fine people, on both sides," he said.

Trump sided with those seeking to maintain the monument to Lee, equating him with some of the nation's founders who also owned slaves. Confederate monuments have become rallying points for supporters of both preserving and toppling them.

"So, this week it's Robert E. Lee," he said. "I noticed that Stonewall Jackson's coming down." I wonder, is it George Washington next week and is it Thomas Jefferson the week after? You really do have to ask yourself where does it stop?"

He continued: "You're changing history. You're changing culture."

The president's comments mirrored rhetoric from the far-right fringe. A post Monday by the publisher of The Daily Stormer, a notorious neo-Nazi website, predicted that protesters are going to demand that the Washington Monument be torn down.

Trump's handling of the weekend violence has raised new and troubling questions, even among some supporters. Members of his own Republican Party have pressured him to be more vigorous in criticizing bigoted groups, and business leaders have begun abandoning a White House jobs panel in response to his comments.

White House officials were caught off guard by his remarks Tuesday. He had signed off on a plan to not answer questions from journalists during an event touting infrastructure policies, according to a White House official not authorized to speak publicly about a private discussion. Once behind the lectern and facing the cameras, he overruled the decision.

Report: Higher premiums if Trump halts 'Obamacare' subsidies

WASHINGTON (AP)—Premiums for a popular type of individual health plan would rise sharply, and more people would be left with no insurance options if President Donald Trump makes good on his threat to stop "Obamacare" payments to insurers, the Congressional Budget Office said Tuesday.

The nonpartisan number crunchers also estimated that cutting off payments that now reduce copays and deductibles for people of modest incomes would add $194 billion to federal deficits over a decade. That head-scratching outcome is because a different Affordable Care Act subsidy would automatically increase as premiums jump, more than wiping out any savings.

"Ending the payments to insurers would introduce more chaos into an unsettled market, and perversely end up costing the federal government more in the end," said Larry Levitt of the Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonpartisan group that found similar results.

At issue are the ACA's "cost-sharing" payments, totaling about $7 billion this year, which reimburse insurers for subsidizing out-of-pocket costs for people with modest incomes.

It's a financial break that can cut a deductible of $3,500 down to a few hundred dollars. Nearly 3 in 5 HealthCare.gov customers qualify for cost-sharing help, an estimated 6 million people or more. But the money is under a legal cloud because of a dispute over whether the Obama-era law properly authorized the payments. Trump has been threatening to end the monthly payments.

The 14-page report lays out consequences if that happens, some counterintuitive:

■ Consumers who now qualify for tax credits to offset their monthly premiums would be largely shielded from the estimated 20 percent jump in the cost of a standard "silver" plan, because of the automatic increase in the ACA's premium subsidies. Solid middle-class households who make too much to receive help for premiums could avoid a big hit by looking for coverage outside the government marketplace.

■ Depending on factors like their income and age, some subsidized customers would be able to take their higher premium tax credits and buy a generous "gold" level plan for about the same money, or a skimpy "bronze" plan for much less or nothing.

■ Some insurers would decide to exit the market rather than re-jigger premiums for 2018 at the last minute. That would leave areas of the country that are home to about 16 million people with no insurers on the health care marketplace for individual policies. Rural communities are at greater risk.

■ About 1 million people would become uninsured right away, but within a few years that slippage would reverse and more people would be covered.

The White House immediately dismissed the report, saying that the president is still weighing options. Insurance industry groups say they have seen no sign that payments due at the end of August will be halted.

Violence adds momentum to removal of Confederate statues

By **JESSE J. HOLLAND**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cities and states accelerated their plans to remove Confederate monuments from public property Tuesday as the violence over a Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville, Virginia, moved leaders across the country to plan to wipe away much of the remaining Old South imagery.

Only two statues were taken down immediately, in Gainesville, Florida, where the Daughters of the Confederacy removed a statue of a Confederate soldier known as "Ole Joe," and in Durham, North Carolina, where protesters used a rope to pull down a Confederate monument dedicated in 1924.

But the anti-Confederate momentum seemed to ensure that other memorials would come down soon. Many local and state governments announced that they would remove statues and other imagery from public land, or consider doing so, in the aftermath of Saturday's white nationalist rally that killed one person and injured dozens more.

The changes were publicized as President Donald Trump defended Confederate statues in wide-ranging remarks.

"This week it's Robert E. Lee. I notice that Stonewall Jackson's coming down," Trump said during a visit to Trump Tower in New York. "I wonder, is it George Washington next week, and is it Thomas Jefferson the week after? You know you really do have to ask yourself, where does it stop?"

Asked specifically whether Charlottesville's Lee statue should come down, he said: "I would say that's up to a local town, community or the federal government, depending on where it is located."

All around the country, Republican and Democratic officials at the state and local levels moved swiftly to begin a process to remove the statues.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said he would ask the Legislature to reverse a 2015 law signed by his Republican predecessor, Pat McCrory, that prevents the removal or relocation of monuments, and to defeat a measure giving immunity to motorists who strike protesters. He also planned to ask state officials to determine the cost of moving Confederate statues and to give him options of where they could go.

"Our Civil War history is important, but it belongs in textbooks and museums?- not a place of allegiance on our Capitol grounds," Cooper said in a statement.

In Maryland, GOP Gov. Larry Hogan said Tuesday he would push to remove the statue of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney, author of the infamous Dred Scott ruling in 1857 affirming slavery, from state land.

Asia

Death toll in South Asia flooding increases to 245

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—The death toll in flooding and landslides that devastated parts of northern India, southern Nepal and Bangladesh over the past few days has risen to 245, while millions of others have been displaced, officials said Tuesday.

In Nepal, authorities scrambled to send relief supplies to flood-hit areas where incessant rain has flooded hundreds of villages, killing 110 people.

Security forces helped rescue people marooned on rooftops, while helicopters were distributing food and drinking water packets in the worst-hit southern districts.

With hundreds of thousands of people affected by the floods, the government was focusing on moving in relief supplies as soon as possible, said Ram Krishna Subedi, a home ministry spokesman.

Nepal's home minister, Janardan Sharma, spent the morning at a relief distribution center at Kathmandu's airport to ensure that the aid was reaching all areas affected by the flooding. Nepal's government has been under criticism for not being able to reach people desperate for help.

Across Nepal's southern border, flooding swamped 13 districts in the Indian state of Bihar. Officials said 41 people had been killed, many from drowning, or after being caught in collapsed houses or under toppled trees.

AP

Flood affected villagers wait for relief material on a broken road washed away by floodwaters in Morigaon district, east of Gauhati, northeastern state of Assam, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017.

Some 200,000 people were temporarily living in the more than 250 relief camps that the government has set up in school and government buildings.

Indian soldiers in boats and helicopters helped distribute food packets, medicine and drinking water to people affected by the floods.

Forty-six people were killed in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh on Sunday when two buses were buried by a landslide in the Himalayan foothills. Another 21 have died in the remote northeastern state of Assam, where soldiers raced to rescue people marooned on rooftops.

In neighboring Bangladesh, at least 18 major rivers were flowing at dangerously high levels, according to the state-run Flood Forecasting and Warning Center.

Over the past two days, 27 people have died in the low-lying delta nation, while another 600,000 are marooned, Bangladesh's disaster management minister, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, said. Around 368,000 people have taken refuge in more than 970 makeshift government shelters, he said.

Deadly landslides and flooding are common across South Asia during the summer monsoon season that stretches from June to September.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine police now say 32 drug suspects killed in 1 day

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police said Wednesday that an updated report shows anti-drug operations in a northern province this week left 32 alleged drug offenders dead—11 more than earlier reported as the highest death toll in a single day since President Rodrigo Duterte launched his war on drugs a year ago. Senior Superintendent Romeo M. Caramat Jr. said 67 police operations in various parts of Bulacan province Tuesday left 32 suspects killed in encounters with police, while 109 others were arrested. Confiscated during the operations were more than 200 grams of methamphetamine, 786 grams of marijuana, assorted firearms, grenades and ammunition. Police records show since the nationwide crackdown started, more than 3,200 alleged drug offenders have been killed in gunbattles with law enforcers.

Taiwan official resigns after blackout hits much of island

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's economy minister has resigned after a generator failure at a power plant caused a massive blackout that affected millions of households across the island during sweltering heat. The power outage plunged traffic, shopping malls and offices into darkness early Tuesday evening. Taiwan's Central News Agency says "an operational technical error" caused six generators to stop working at Taiwan's biggest natural gas power plant. Taiwan's economy minister Lee Chih-kung apologized at a news conference and said the person who made the error would be punished. CNA says 6.68 million households were affected in the capital, Taipei, cities Taichung and Tainan and three counties in the center, west and southwest of the island of 23 million people. The defense ministry said back-up power supply ensured no disruption to military operations.

Former Pakistan PM challenges disqualification by court

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani official says former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has filed petitions with the Supreme Court to challenge his disqualification and removal from office. Environment Minister Mushahidullah Khan, who is in Sharif's party, said Tuesday that the former prime minister's lawyers filed three petitions to review the verdict. The court disqualified Sharif after documents leaked from a Panama-based law firm showed that his family held previously undisclosed overseas assets. A five-judge panel last month disqualified Sharif, accusing him of concealing assets. Last week Sharif held a series of rallies across the country, criticizing the court ruling and seeking to whip up popular support. The Lahore High Court meanwhile summoned Sharif and 13 aides, including Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif and Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal, for contempt proceedings to be held Aug. 25.

World

More than 300 dead in Sierra Leone mudslides

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)—Fatmata Kamara had just stepped outside her house before dawn Monday when she saw the muddy hillside collapsing above her. The only thing she could do was run.

She was one of the survivors, those who managed to escape the surging mudslides and floodwaters in and around Sierra Leone's capital that killed more than 300 people, many of them trapped as they slept. Another 600 people are missing, the Red Cross said Tuesday, and the death toll is expected to rise.

Thousands lost their homes in the disaster, which was triggered by heavy rains.

"I ran away from the house, leaving behind my family," a grieving Kamara told The Associated Press. "I am the only one that has survived, as my house and dozens of others were covered with mud and boulders."

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Rescuers dug with their bare hands through the thick, reddish mud to try to find any survivors in the debris of the homes. Heavy equipment was later brought in, said government spokesman Cornelius Deveaux. The military also was deployed to help.

Late Tuesday, Deveaux said that 297 bodies have been recovered so far, including 109 males, 83 females and 105 children.

Some bodies were swept into the sea off the coast of the West African nation and have begun washing back ashore.

The mortuary of the Connaught Hospital in central Freetown was overwhelmed with the dead. More than 300 bodies of men, women and children were brought there, and many were laid out on the floor. Deveaux said an exact death toll was unknown, and many of the bodies were horribly mangled.

President Ernest Bai Koroma said Sierra Leone was in a state of grief and mourning, with many survivors still in shock. He called for seven days of mourning starting on Wednesday.

Radio journalist Gibril Sesay said he lost his entire family.

"I am yet to grasp that I survived, and my family is gone," he said through sobs, unable to continue.

Iranian president threatens to revitalize nuclear program

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president warned Tuesday that it could ramp up its nuclear program and quickly achieve a more advanced level if the U.S. continues "threats and sanctions" against his country, which signed a landmark nuclear accord with world powers in 2015.

Hassan Rouhani's remarks to lawmakers were his most direct warning that the deal could fall apart and risked ratcheting up tensions with the United States. President Donald Trump has repeatedly said he wants to scuttle the accord, which limited Iran's ability to produce a nuclear weapon while ending most sanctions against it.

Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said late Tuesday: "The nuclear deal must not become 'too big to fail.'"

"Iran, under no circumstances, can ever be allowed to have nuclear weapons," she said in a statement. "At the same time, however, we must also continue to hold Iran responsible for its missile launches, support for terrorism, disregard for human rights and violations of U.N. Security Council resolutions."

Earlier this week, Iran's parliament voted to increase spending on the country's ballistic missile program and the foreign operations of its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. The move came in response to U.S. legislation passed earlier this month imposing mandatory penalties on people involved in Iran's ballistic missile program and anyone who does business with them. The U.S. legislation also applies terrorism sanctions to the Guard and enforces an existing arms embargo.

If Washington continues with "threats and sanctions" against Iran, Tehran could easily step up its nuclear activities, Rouhani said in parliament Tuesday.

Boko Haram bombers kill 20 at village in northeast Nigeria

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—Suicide bombers attacked a camp for internally displaced people and a nearby market in a northeastern Nigeria village Tuesday, killing at least 20 people, a local official said Tuesday.

Village chief Lawan Kalli said Tuesday at least three suicide bombers entered Mandarari's market around 5 p.m. posing as buyers, then an undetermined number went to the nearby camp for people displaced by Nigeria's conflict while at least one stayed at the market. They all detonated their explosives almost simultaneously, he said.

"Our village is right at the entrance into Konduga town and that is where both the camp and the makeshift market are situated, which made us an instant target point of the insurgents," Kalli said.

At least 80 people were injured and were rushed to the hospital in Maiduguri, a town about 30 kilometers (18 miles) away, he said.

Musa Bura, a youth volunteer in nearby Konduga town, said most members of the local defense force were on guard at the market and not the nearby camp.

"The suicide bombers came, three in number. One went into the camp and detonated and almost immediately everywhere turned into disarray, and in the confusion, the two other suicide bombers detonated in the market," he said.

The death toll will likely rise, he predicted.

Boko Haram's eight-year insurgency has displaced millions in Nigeria and neighboring countries and has killed more than 20,000 people.

The Islamic insurgents also staged attacks late Monday that killed seven people in the communities of Nyibango and Muduhu in the Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa, said the chairman of the Madagali Local Government Council, Yusuf Muhammed.

Environment

Scientists keep an eye on green sea turtles

adapting to life in the San Gabriel River's murky flows

By LOUIS SAHAGUN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — When scientists confirmed their existence in the San Gabriel River in 2008, the green sea turtles were thought to be oddballs or lost wanderers.

The federally endangered species usually is found in tropical haunts — amid coral reefs or on the sandy beaches where they lay eggs. But this colony was cavorting in the southern end of the river, where the flood control channel's tainted urban runoff mixes with tidal flows in the shadows of electric power plants and the 405 Freeway.

With each massive turtle that poked its grapefruit-size head above the murky water for a gulp of air came questions.

How many were there? What were they eating? Were they adapting to the challenges the two-mile-long, 100-yard-wide channel between the cities of Long Beach and Seal Beach presented: fishing hooks, motorboats, illegal dumping and tons of garbage that washes in every time it rains?

After years of monitoring their behavior and tracking their movements, federal scientists — assisted by a small army of volunteers organized by the Aquarium of the Pacific and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority — are coming up with answers to some of the riddles the turtles pose.

"The green sea turtles in the San Gabriel River are thriving," said Dan Lawson, a biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service. "Over the past decade, we've seen about 100 of them in the river and in nearby Alamitos Bay, Anaheim Bay, Huntington Harbor and the Naval Weapons Station.

"But they'd be a lot happier if our regulatory agencies did a better job of controlling trash in the river," he said.

The colony, according to experts, is composed of juveniles hatched off central Mexico, where the population is increasing thanks to nesting beach protections and a reduction in poaching. Exactly when they arrived, or if they traveled together or as individuals, remains unknown.

The turtles range in size from a sheet of notebook paper to 100-pounders and eat almost anything they can clamp their mouths on — including snails in the river and eel grass in the estuaries of the Naval Weapons Station.

An analysis of tissue and shell samples conducted by Arthur Barraza as part of his graduate work in marine biology at Cal State Long Beach showed relatively low levels of toxic heavy metals and carcinogenic substances.

"These turtles are fairly healthy, at least right now," he said. "Contaminants accumulate in their tissues over time, and their harmful effects can initially be subtle and hard to detect."

The good news about the turtles' health is offset, however, by the sight of them having to navigate through rotting garbage, discarded shopping carts, tires, plastic bottles and bags.

Mike Kaspar, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, said the agency was "in the process of cleaning up that portion of the river right now."

Standing recently on a slanting concrete wall as sea turtles surfaced in the foamy current and county crews picked up trash onshore, Cassandra Davis of the aquarium's San Gabriel River Sea Turtle Monitoring Project was hopeful.

"We have the ability to transform this unlikely habitat into an urban oasis for wildlife, including Los Angeles' resident sea turtles," she said. "So we ought to do that, because they deserve better than this."

AP
A sea turtle pop its heads above the warm water in the San Gabriel River near a LADWP power plant discharge pipe in Long Beach, Calif., on Aug. 1, 2017.

AP
LA County Department of Public Works employees in a boat collect trash from the San Gabriel River in Seal Beach, Calif., on Aug. 1, 2017.

AP
AES power plant on Studebaker along the San Gabriel River in Long Beach, Calif., on Aug. 1, 2017. Sea turtles are attracted to warm discharge waters from the power plant as well as from a LADWP generating station on the south bank of the river.

AP
LA County Department of Public Works employees in a boat collect trash from the San Gabriel River in Seal Beach, Calif., on Aug. 1, 2017.

New non-native species emerges in Great Lakes after a mostly clean decade

By DAN EGAN
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

MILWAUKEE—The stew of non-native species known to be swarming in the Great Lakes just got a little thicker.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Monday that a new type of zooplankton, commonly reported in Europe and Asia, has been discovered in the western basin of Lake Erie.

Precisely how the rotifer Brachionus leydigii arrived in the Great Lakes is not known, but contaminated ballast water discharged by oceangoing ships sailing up the St. Lawrence Seaway is a likely answer.

The species was identified in a 2001-2002 survey of ballast tanks of ships sailing into the Great Lakes, though it was not found in the lakes themselves. Nobody can say at this point what type of effect it might have on the Great Lakes, the world's largest freshwater system.

This is the second non-native species recently discovered in the lakes by a team of researchers from the EPA and Cornell University. In late 2016, the EPA announced that another type of zooplankton had also been discovered in Lake Erie.

The two discoveries come after nearly a decade in which no new non-native species had been identified in the Great Lakes, which are now home to at least 187 non-native species.

The rate of species discoveries peaked more than a decade ago when a new organism was being discovered at a rate of nearly two per year.

The shipping industry points to rules requiring overseas ships to flush their ship-steadying ballast water tanks with mid-ocean salt water as a reason for the slowdown in discoveries, but scientists maintain the door to new invasions remains open, and these recent finds bolster that argument.

The new discoveries come at a time when the EPA is under legal pressure to do more to protect the Great Lakes from invasive species. In 2013, the agency established a set of ballast water discharge standards that will eventually require all ships sailing into the lakes, and other U.S. waters, to have onboard water treatment systems to kill ballast hitchhikers.

Conservation groups sued under the Clean Water Act, arguing those standards weren't stringent enough to protect the Great Lakes from the next quagga mussel, zebra mussel, round goby or fish-killing VHS virus — all are invaders believed to have colonized the Great Lakes via oceangoing ships.

The EPA is now developing more stringent ballast water regulations at the same time the shipping industry is pushing for legislation that would pull ballast water enforcement out of the hands of the EPA, a measure conservation groups argue would remove Clean Water Act ballast water protections for the Great Lakes — and keep the door open to more Great Lakes invasions.

While only a single specimen has been found at this point, conservationists are taking it as a sign to strengthen ballast water discharge regulations.

"It's a reminder that we could be one ballast tank away from the next zebra mussel," said Molly Flanagan of the Alliance for the Great Lakes. "I hope this finally puts to rest efforts in Congress to weaken federal ballast water protections."

Life & Style

$28.75 charge to visit Elvis' grave during vigil upsets fans

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)— For nearly four decades, fans of the late singer Elvis Presley have made a solemn procession past his grave at his Graceland mansion during the annual candlelight vigil commemorating his death, without paying a penny.

This year, on the 40th anniversary of the rock 'n' roll icon's death, it cost them $28.75.

Many fans were not happy.

Visitors attending the vigil that began Tuesday night and runs into Wednesday had to have an Elvis Week Property Pass wristband to walk up the long driveway and past the graves where Presley and relatives are buried, Graceland told the Associated Press in a written statement. The $28.75 wristband also provided access to a new $45 million entertainment complex at the Memphis tourist attraction.

Graceland, operated by Elvis Presley Enterprises, said it anticipated large crowds and it updated its security measures for Elvis Week, the annual celebration of Presley's life and career in music and movies. Presley died on Aug. 16, 1977, in Memphis.

"In order to keep everyone safe and ensure an enjoyable and meaningful event for all, we have worked closely with local, state and federal security authorities to establish new procedures that have been widely used across the U.S.," Graceland's statement said.

Fans wait in line outside Graceland, Elvis Presley's Memphis home, on Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017, in Memphis, Tenn. Fans from around the world are at Graceland for the 40th anniversary of his death. Presley died Aug. 16, 1977. AP

Thousands of mourning fans holding white candles burning a yellow-orange flame made a slow, silent walk through the graves Tuesday night. Before the procession began, Priscilla Presley, the performer's former wife, and Lisa Marie Presley, their daughter, thanked the crowd for their love and dedication.

A crowd estimate was not immediately available. Officials had prepared for about 30,000 to 50,000 people.

A few Presley fans made a pilgrimage to Graceland the year he died, and they've continued coming ever since. Graceland says it averages 500,000 visitors per year from around the world.

The announcement surprised fans who didn't know about the charge when they made plans to come to Elvis Week. Some reacted with angry messages on social media, saying they won't attend another vigil.

Longtime fan Fred Schwarz of Springfield, Illinois, said Tuesday that he and his wife have been to several vigils and have enjoyed them. But not this year. He says fans should be insulted at the new charge.

"I looked forward to going down there this year, and they come up with all this," Schwarz said. "I don't want to even go to Memphis anymore. The people running that are not Elvis fans. They are in business. Corporations, they want the bottom line."

Elvis Presley Enterprises was created by the Elvis Presley Trust to manage its assets, according to Graceland's website. It was wholly owned by the Elvis Presley Trust and Lisa Marie Presley until 2005. Elvis Presley Enterprises is now majority-owned by Graceland Holdings, led by managing partner Joel Weinshanker. Lisa Marie Presley retains 15 percent ownership in the company.

The new entertainment complex is part of a $140 million expansion, which also includes a $90 million, 450-room hotel that opened last year. The complex, featuring exhibits of Presley's cars, clothing and other personal items, replaces the aging buildings that housed the exhibits for years.

Access to restaurants, gift shops and an entertainment tent where people gathered before the vigil used to be free, though visitors still actually had to buy the food or memorabilia at the eateries and shops.

Fox removes video with cars plowing through demonstrators

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News said it has removed a video from its website that depicted cars plowing through demonstrators, saying it was "inappropriate."

The development was part of another fast-moving day Tuesday for media keeping up with the fallout from a violent racial protest over the weekend in Charlottesville, Virginia, including a contentious late-afternoon news conference by President Donald Trump and a deleted presidential tweet.

The 90-second video had been picked up in January from The Daily Caller, a website co-founded by Fox personality Tucker Carlson. The Daily Caller's video editor, Mike Raust, wrote when it was posted: "Here's a compilation of liberal protesters getting pushed out of the way by cars and trucks. Study the technique; it may prove useful in the next four years."

The video, its existence reported by Slate Tuesday, was reposted on the Fox Nation opinion website.

AP

President Donald Trump gestures as he speaks to the media in the lobby of Trump Tower in New York, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017.

"The item was inappropriate and we've taken it down," said Noah Kotch, Fox News Digital editor-in-chief. "We regret posting it in January."

A car struck a group of counter-demonstrators to a white nationalist event in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Saturday, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring 19.

Representatives from The Daily Caller did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Also Tuesday, the president retweeted and deleted a cartoon showing a train labeled "Trump" running over a man with "CNN" covering his face.

His news conference from Trump Tower featured the president answering several questions about his reaction to violence at the weekend demonstration, and appearing to equate the actions of demonstrators on both sides. Shortly after the session, broadcast live on television, a CNN on-screen headline said: "Trump News Conference Goes Off the Rails."

MSNBC anchor Nicolle Wallace, once an aide to former President George W. Bush, emotionally waved a printed copy of a tweet from former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke praising Trump's news conference and said of Trump's staff, "who resigns over this? Which one of you is leaving your job?"

On CNN, analyst David Chalian said that "this is a president who has lost touch with the country that he represents."

The news conference drew a mixed response by commentators on normally Trump-friendly Fox News Channel, although Trump had his supporters.

"I think he did a great job today," said Madison Gesiotto, an analyst on the network. "He's a leader."

Robert Yancy, only child of Natalie Cole, dies at 39

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Robert Yancy, the only child of singer Natalie Cole and grandson of crooner Nat King Cole, has died. He was 39.

Yancy was found dead Monday night at his home in the Sherman Oaks section of Los Angeles after authorities were contacted to make a welfare check. The Los Angeles County coroner's office said Tuesday that his death was reported as due to natural causes but the official cause must await an autopsy.

Yancy's aunt, Timolin Cole Augustus, told The Associated Press, "It appears to be a sudden heart attack."

Natalie Cole was 65 when she died Dec. 31, 2015, of pulmonary arterial hypertension, which led to heart failure.

Yancy, whose father was the first of Cole's three husbands, was a drummer who played in his mother's touring band and performed at her funeral in January 2016.

"We are just numb," Cole Augustus said. "The only consolation is that he's with the person he loved the most."

Yancy's father, Marvin, died of a heart attack at age 34 in 1985 when the younger Yancy was 7.

Cole Augustus said by phone from her Florida home that Yancy was "completely torn apart" upon his mother's death, but had since rebounded and was performing again.

"He was in a happy place. He was feeling good," she said. "We were looking forward to celebrating his 40th birthday."

Yancy, who went by Robbie, and his mother shared a strong Baptist faith and were regular churchgoers.

"What a woman," Yancy told mourners at Cole's funeral. "She taught me how to love. She had my back every time when I needed it. The greatest gift she ever gave me was Jesus. I cannot wait until that day that I see you again."

At the funeral, one of Cole's sisters read a condolence letter from then-President Barack Obama to Yancy.

Cole Augustus recalled her nephew as "a man of great strength and faith in God. He had an indomitable spirit. Everybody loved him."

Born Robert Adam Yancy on Oct. 14, 1977, he never married. He is survived by Cole's twin sisters, Timolin and Casey Cole Hooker, and five cousins.

DJ in Taylor Swift case wasn't interested in backing down

AP
In this Aug. 8, 2017, courtroom sketch, former radio host David Mueller appears in federal court in Denver.

DENVER (AP)—The former radio host who lost a groping lawsuit to Taylor Swift in federal court this week said Tuesday he realizes the case was in the pop star's favor, but he had no interest in backing down.

David Mueller told The Associated Press someone he knew suggested he pull out of the case early, but he refused.

"I knew that I couldn't go on with my life without representing myself," he said. "I'm never going to back down."

A six-woman, two-man jury determined Monday that Mueller groped Swift during a photo op before a concert in Denver in 2013. In keeping with Swift's request, they awarded her $1 in damages—an amount her attorney, Douglas Baldridge, called "a single symbolic dollar, the value of which is immeasurable to all women in this situation."

Mueller said he is thinking of giving Swift a Sacagawea dollar because the Native American is a prominent female.

"I mean if this is all about women's rights. ... It's a little poke at them, a little bit," he said. "I mean, I think they made this into a publicity stunt, and this is my life."

Swift's team initially tried to keep the accusation quiet by not reporting the incident to police, and instead contacting Mueller's bosses.

But it became public when Mueller sued Swift for up to $3 million, claiming her allegation cost him his $150,000-a-year job at country station KYGO-FM, where he was a morning host.

After Mueller sued, Swift countersued for assault and battery. During an hour of testimony last week, she blasted a low-key characterization by Mueller's attorney, Gabriel McFarland, of what happened. While Mueller testified he never grabbed Swift, she insisted she was groped.

"He stayed attached to my bare ass-cheek as I lurched away from him," Swift testified.

"It was a definite grab. A very long grab," she added.

Mueller emphatically denied reaching under the pop star's skirt or otherwise touching her inappropriately, testifying he touched her ribs and that his hand may have brushed the outside of her skirt as they awkwardly posed for the picture before Swift's performance at an arena.

That photo was virtually the only evidence besides the testimony.

In the image shown to jurors during opening statements but not publicly released, Mueller's hand is behind Swift, just below her waist. Both are smiling. Mueller's then-girlfriend is standing on Swift's other side.

"I don't even know what to think of the photo. Everyone looks at it, and they see different things. It's like a Rorschach," Mueller said, referring to a psychological test that uses inkblots to gauge a subject's perceptions. "I look at it. I know what happened. To me, it's an awkward photo."

Swift testified that after she was groped, she numbly told Mueller and his girlfriend, "Thank you for coming," and moved on to photos with others waiting in line because she did not want to disappoint them.

But she said she immediately went to her photographer after the meet-and-greet ended and found the photo of her with Mueller, telling the photographer what happened.

Kim Kardashian West sorry for defending makeup artist

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kim Kardashian West is apologizing after feeling the ire of the internet for defending a makeup artist who used racial slurs several times on camera.

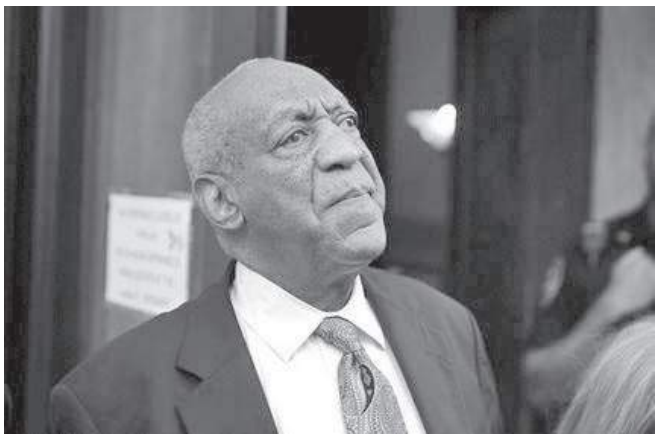
Kardashian West says in a Snapchat video Tuesday that she's sorry for "feeling like I had the right to say 'get over it' in a situation that involves racism."

Kardashian West was trending on social media after defending makeup artist Jeffree Star as an asset to her cosmetics empire despite his history of racist remarks and calling her fans "petty" for bringing up his past. She characterized his slurs as "negative" but said he had apologized for them and she believes people can change.

She reiterated that belief in her posts on Tuesday and says she wants to "move forward and be positive."

A representative for Kardashian West confirmed the authenticity of the posts but had no additional comment Tuesday.

2nd defense attorney wants off Bill Cosby's sex assault case



AP
In this June 17, 2017, file photo, Bill Cosby exits the Montgomery County Courthouse after a mistrial was declared in Norristown, Pa.

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—A second lawyer who defended Bill Cosby in his sex assault trial that ended with a deadlocked jury wants off the case before the start of his retrial that's set for November.

Los Angeles-based lawyer Angela Agrusa filed documents Tuesday seeking to withdraw as Cosby's counsel.

Lead defense lawyer Brian McMonagle, of Philadelphia, asked to be taken off the case earlier this month.

Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill previously set a hearing for Aug. 22 to discuss that request. Agrusa is asking to delay that hearing until Sept. 11.

District Attorney Kevin Steele is asking the judge to deny that request, saying it delays justice.

The 80-year-old comedian is being retried on charges he drugged and molested Andrea Constand more than a decade ago. Cosby has said it was consensual.

Coroner: 'Home Alone' actor Heard died of cardiac arrest

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Officials say actor John Heard, whose body was found last month in a Northern California hotel, died of cardiac arrest.

The Santa Clara County Coroner's Office said Tuesday an autopsy revealed the 71-year-old actor died "a sudden cardiac death due to atherosclerotic and hypertensive heart disease."

Heard was found dead July 21 in a hotel in Palo Alto, California. He was recovering from back surgery at Stanford University Medical Center.

The coroner's office says his back surgery did not play a role in his death.

Heard's many roles included the father in the "Home Alone" and "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York" movies and a corrupt detective in the television series "The Sopranos."

Heard was married and divorced three times, including briefly to actress Margot Kidder. He had three children.

With twins on the way, man still refuses to buy a ring

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend for three years. I am pregnant with twins, and we already have a son together. His daughter lives with us as well.

With this pregnancy coming to term, I keep throwing hints to him about us becoming engaged, but he brushes them off. I know he's the person I want to spend the rest of my life with. I don't want to pressure him into an engagement, but it's been three years, three kids and a stepchild, and I still don't have my ring!

I wouldn't even mind a long engagement. I just want to know we're headed in the direction of marriage. I want to know he wants the same things I want. An engagement is the only way I'll feel sure he plans on spending his future with me. Can you help?

VERY PREGNANT IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR VERY PREGNANT: It should be dawning on you by now that a man who brushes off hints about becoming engaged isn't interested in a formal arrangement. I wish you had asked for my advice 10 months ago, because I would have urged you not to become pregnant again unless you were sure where the relationship was going.

From where I sit, it is going nowhere. There is no way anyone can help you push someone who is unwilling into marriage. What I CAN do is stress that should anything happen to him, you and the little ones will be left with nothing unless he makes a will that names you as beneficiary. When you discuss THAT with him, do not hint or allow him to brush you off, because the implications are very serious.

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Marcie" is very attached to her dog, "Doodles." She had two. They were quite old, and one passed last year. It was traumatic for the entire family because we were concerned about Marcie's mental state. Now Doodles looks close to the end, and she's in a constant state of distress.

Marcie takes the dog with her everywhere, whether it's appropriate or not. When her in-laws invited her and her husband on a cruise next spring, she burst into tears at the thought of leaving Doodles for a week.

I'm beside myself with worry over my sister's mental state and afraid of what her dog's passing will bring. It's not just Doodles' age and declining health; Marcie has always let her animals run/ruin her life. Thousands of dollars have been spent replacing carpeting, wood floors, urine-stained curtains, rugs and furniture.

Any thoughts? How can she be prepared for what we all know is coming?

TOO ATTACHED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR TOO ATTACHED: If you think there is anything the family can do to prepare your sister, forget it. She will go through a period of grieving for the animal companion she has grown to love. To her, Doodles is a full-fledged family member.

When the inevitable happens, be patient, be understanding, be prepared to listen when she pours out her grief and, if necessary, go online to help her find a grief support group for people who are mourning the loss of a pet.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

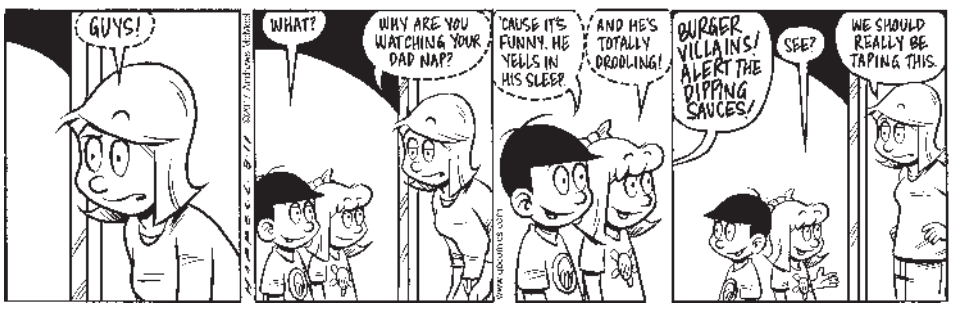
WELL GANG, I'M SORRY THE WEATHER WASN'T ANY BETTER THIS WEEK.
I KNOW IT WASN'T ALWAYS A LOT OF FUN, BUT WE LIVED THROUGH IT, AND WE GOT TO SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER, AND THAT'S WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT.
ANYWAY, I HOPE YOU'RE ALL NOT TOO DISAPPOINTED.
CALVIN, TELL YOUR DAD ANY JUDGE WOULD TAKE THIS TRIP AS GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE.
DAD, MOM SAYS...
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


GUYS!
WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU WATCHING YOUR DAD NAP?
'CAUSE IT'S FUNNY. HE YELLS IN HIS SLEEP.
AND HE'S TOTALLY DROOLING!
BURGER VILLAINS! ALERT THE DIPPING SAUCES!
SEE?
WE SHOULD REALLY BE TAPING THIS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

A BALONEY COMPANY HAS ISSUED A RECALL BECAUSE OF A MALFUNCTION AT THEIR PLANT.
"SOME PACKAGES ON THE SHELF MAY CONTAIN PIECES OF REAL MEAT."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

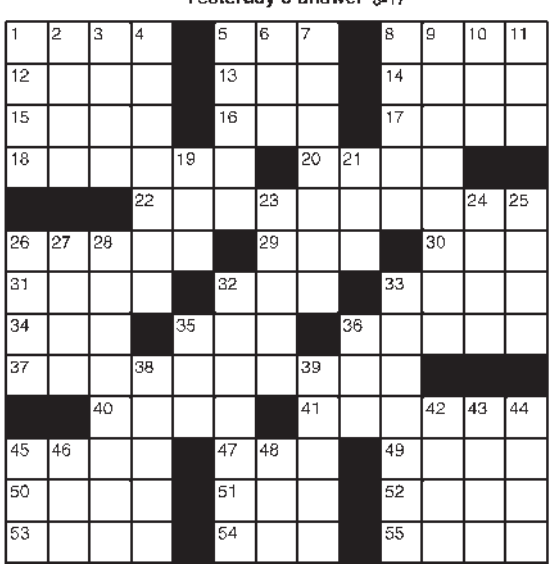
1 Gator's kin
5 Klutz
8 Abound
12 Mama's mate
13 Numerical prefix
14 Aware of
15 Petri dish gel
16 Singer Ritter
17 Doc's "Now!"
18 Biblical dancer
20 Eyebrow shape
22 Fortune-telling deck
26 Old photo tint
29 Actor Stephen
30 Altar constellation
31 Second-hand
32 '60s chic
33 TV chef Bobby
34 Frenzied
35 Anti
36 Leans
37 Fortune-telling game
40 Attire
41 Rough, as terrain
45 Difficult
47 Have bills
49 Perry's creator
50 "Got it"
51 Junior
52 Cash drawer
53 Multi-colored
54 Salt source
55 Lovers' quarrel

DOWN

1 IRS employees
2 Sitarist's music
3 October birthstone
4 Major artery
5 Playful sea critter
6 Verb for you
7 Focused obsessively
8 Puccini opera
9 Captivate
10 LAX info
11 Witticism
19 Goat's plaint
21 Sony rival
23 Maine college town
24 "Phooey!"
25 Utters
26 Wrestling style
27 Isaac's eldest
28 Ancestry
32 Crime family honcho
33 Squirms
35 Train unit
36 Capote nickname
38 World-weary
39 Sports venue
42 Clench
43 Jazzy Fitzgerald
44 Shoulder muscle, for short
45 Trendy
46 "— was saying ..."
48 Misery

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dustin Pedroia, 34; Donnie Wahlberg, 48; Sean Penn, 57; Robert De Niro, 74.

Happy Birthday: Get involved in a project you believe in. Don't sit back waiting for others to come to you. Call on people you have worked with in the past and you will gain support, information and the help you need to make a difference. Dealing with parents or children will cause setbacks and uncertainty if you aren't prepared to take responsibility. Your numbers are 5, 9, 17, 21, 26, 34, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): An overactive imagination will lead to trouble. Stay focused on having fun and getting along with others instead of being difficult. Aim for positive interactions and you'll get the reactions and the results you are looking for. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get involved in unusual pastimes or a group that offers something unique in exchange for your skills or services. A proposal will stifle your freedom to do other things in the future. Avoid unnecessary debt. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stabilize your personal life. Clear a space and start a project that will encourage you to take better care of your physical, emotional and financial future. Don't look for a quick fix when only discipline and hard work will lead to success. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Dealing with financial, medical or government institutions will bring about changes, but not the outcome you expect. Be prepared to think quickly and implement strategic ideas that can protect you if something goes wrong. Moderation will be necessary. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Get energized and pursue your goals. Take care of matters that will make a difference to those you love or feel responsible for. Your persistence and dedication will pay off. Take care of others people's possessions or assets with care. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Unexpected changes may cause stress for you and those you work with. Use practicality and reasonability to convince others to do what's necessary to make everyone's lives easier. Using charm will lead to new work or personal connections. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take a moment to observe what's going on around you. Doors will open and changes can take place if you use all of your skills, insight and physical attributes to maneuver along to your destination of choice. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Accept the inevitable and make the most of what you've got going for you and things will turn out in your favor. A vacation with someone you love will help you sort through any misconceptions either of you have about your relationship. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Joint ventures should be avoided. Someone may be withholding important information. A change in attitude on either of your parts could change the dynamics of the relationship. A change of scenery will do you good. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Changes will have to be monitored closely. Look for a practical way to move forward without overspending or taking on more responsibilities than you can handle. Nurture relationships to avoid being criticized for neglect. Balance and equality will be required. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Making a power play may cost you. Don't make personal changes that will alter your appearance. Keep up with the latest technological trends that affect the way you do your job or your everyday routine. Convenience should be a priority. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stick close to home. Entertain someone you love or plan a family gathering that will encourage everyone to pitch in and help in order to take care of matters that are stressful. Love, romance and togetherness should be a priority. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, entertaining and colorful. You are energetic and a go-getter.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2			4		6			
	6			1	9			
	7					6		
9				4	7			
		8				1		
			9	3				5
		4					7	
			2	7			1	
			6		8			9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	6	5	7	1	4	8	3
3	7	8	6	2	4	9	5	1
5	4	1	3	8	9	2	7	6
6	3	7	9	4	8	5	1	2
4	1	9	2	5	3	8	6	7
8	2	5	1	6	7	3	9	4
7	8	2	4	9	6	1	3	5
9	5	3	7	1	2	6	4	8
1	6	4	8	3	5	7	2	9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HELMUT KOHL (1930-2017) Solution: 10 letters

M	R	O	F	E	R	E	R	O	L	E	N	N	A	H
J	O	S	E	F	R	E	E	D	O	M	O	O	L	E
L	T	C	I	A	S	E	T	R	A	I	S	I	O	I
E	N	H	L	T	S	N	L	E	N	S	T	T	O	D
A	E	A	I	S	E	T	A	U	P	R	P	A	H	E
D	M	N	C	E	I	A	W	H	T	I	O	C	C	L
N	N	C	A	W	E	O	M	H	N	O	L	I	S	B
A	R	L	C	L	P	I	C	A	Y	M	I	F	E	E
R	E	O	R	U	C	I	M	N	I	E	T	I	H	R
R	V	T	O	H	R	S	A	N	A	M	I	N	C	G
E	O	R	A	T	E	M	I	W	O	R	K	U	E	L
T	G	E	S	T	R	S	E	V	E	N	F	E	E	A
T	L	A	A	E	T	N	E	D	I	S	E	R	P	D
I	A	T	G	E	U	R	O	C	O	R	P	S	S	E
M	S	Y	R	A	R	O	N	O	H	E	K	I	A	M

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Arte, Cacille, East, Eurocorps, Francois, Freedom, Germany, Government, Group, Hannelore, Hans, Heidelberg, Honorary, Josef, Lead, Maastricht, Maike, Medal, Memoirs, Michael, Minister, Mitterrand, Ostpolitik, Peter, President, Reform, Reunification, School, Seven, Speeches, Statesman, Team, Treaty, Union, Walter, West, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Grand Central

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LeBron blasts Trump, calls him 'so-called president'

SANDUSKY, Ohio (AP)—LeBron James went after President Donald Trump in an emotional speech on Tuesday night, calling him the "so-called president" while calling for unity in light of the Charlottesville tragedy.

Standing on stage before students, parents and families connected to his foundation at the end of a daylong event at Cedar Point Amusement Park, James said he wanted to spend a moment addressing the weekend's violent protests, where a woman was killed amid ugly clashes between far-right extremists and protesters out to stop them.

While holding his baby daughter, James turned his thoughts to the violence.

"I know there's a lot of tragic things happening in Charlottesville (Virginia)," James said. "I just want to speak on it right now. I have this platform and I'm somebody that has a voice of command and the only way for us to get better as a society and for us to get better as people is love. And that's the only way we're going to be able to conquer something as one. It's not about the guy that's the so-called president of the United States, or whatever the case."

Earlier in the day, the NBA superstar blasted Trump on Twitter after the president appeared to equate the actions of white supremacists and those protesting them.

James has been outspoken on his political beliefs in the past—he endorsed Hillary Clinton in last year's election, introducing her at a rally in Cleveland just two days before she lost to Trump—and took advantage of his first public appearance since the NBA Finals to call out Trump's actions.

AP
Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James speaks while holding his daughter, Zhuri, during the We Are Family Reunion at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017.

"It's not about a teacher that you don't feel like cares about what's going on with you every day," James continued. "It's not about people that you just don't feel like want to give the best energy and effort to you. It's about us. It's about us looking in the mirror. Kids all the way up to the adults. All of us looking in the mirror and saying, 'What can we do better to help change?' And if we can all do that and give 110 percent, then that's all you can ask for.

"So, shout out to the innocent people in Charlottesville (Virginia) and shout out to everybody across the world that just want to be great and just want to love. Thank you, and I love you all."

James was joined on stage by his three children, singers Usher and Jordin Sparks, who performed during the event, and Cavaliers teammate J.R. Smith.

The three-time champion flew to New York earlier Tuesday to play in pickup games with Warriors star Kevin Durant and Carmelo Anthony of the New York Knicks.

This isn't the first time James has used his status to take on social issues - or take a swipe at Trump.

During the season, James was asked if the All-Star voting was "goofy" because players were involved in the balloting.

"There's always goofy votes," James quipped. "I mean, Donald Trump is our president."

He has taken a far more serious tone on other matters. When he was with Miami, James and his teammates wore hooded sweatshirts to protest the deadly shooting of teenager Trayvon Martin. He also wore an "I Can't Breathe" T-shirt when the Cavaliers were in Brooklyn as a tribute to Eric Garner, who had been choked to death in a struggle with police.

During last year's ESPYs, James stood on stage with Anthony and fellow All-Stars Chris Paul and Dwyane Wade to demand social change.

How the schedule was made: NBA taking hard look at metrics

MIAMI (AP) —Larry Bird made his plea years ago.

His request to the NBA was not unique: Bird wanted the league to eliminate the dreaded stretches of four games in five days. What made Bird's pitch memorable was that it didn't just cite the demand of so many games in such a short amount of time, but also pointed out how the anxiousness caused by such tests can hurt a team beforehand and how the fatigue lingers long afterward.

"What he said to me has been ringing in my head ever since," said Tom Carelli, the NBA's senior vice president for broadcasting.

Carelli and the rest of the NBA schedule-making gurus were unable to make Bird's request reality—until now. With an extra week of days to play with, along with some much deeper looks at arena availability and ways to try to help competitive balance, the NBA believes the schedule released Monday should be the most user-friendly in the league's history.

The four-games-in-five-days challenges? Eliminated for the first time in NBA history.

Back-to-backs? Only 14.4 per team on average, an all-time low for the third straight year.

Single-game road trips, average miles traveled and time zones crossed? All down a bit as well.

"I think at this point, and frankly the minute we got the extra week, we could conclude the schedule is really, undebatably, the best basketball schedule we've ever had," said Evan Wasch, the NBA's senior vice president for basketball strategy and analytics. "That's what the week affords you, the opportunity to focus on all these different metrics."

The extra week, which allows the regular season to start Oct. 17 - the league's earliest start since 1980 - was an obvious help. But schedule makers went further, taking a deeper-than-usual look at arena availability around the league and trying to minimize the nights where a weary team will face a well-rested opponent.

In other words, NBA fans, meet FTE.

The metric—an acronym for Fresh, Tired and Even—is a major part of the NBA schedule process. It's a way the NBA has charted how tired one team will likely be when facing another.

FTE has been part of the NBA's internal charting for years, but wasn't often discussed openly or with teams.

"If a team plays the night before and its opponent didn't, then one team is tired and its opponent is fresh," Wasch said. "That fresh-tired ratio will be lower than ever. It's hard to measure and track when you build a schedule manually, but it's easy to track when building one with optimization software."

Instead of asking teams for 50 possible home dates for their respective buildings—the past standard—schedule makers like Carelli, Wasch, Chris Boghosian, Gene Li and Hao Meng instead checked every available date and tried a much broader look at how the puzzle might fit.

Their work might be particularly noticed on ABC games this season.

Last season, when stars like LeBron James, Kyrie Irving, Kevin Love, Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Draymond Green and Andre Iguodala all were given nights off when the Cavaliers or Warriors were playing nationally televised games on ABC, there was no shortage of scorn. This season, teams playing in those marquee ABC games will have a day off both before and after those contests.

"The more information we got, the easier it was to reduce back-to-backs," Carelli said.

The changes aren't only to benefit players and teams.

The league this year will be labeling the schedule by week - Week 1, Week 2, so on, from Monday to Sunday. It's essentially a idea at presenting fans, and fantasy players, with a schedule that's broken down into smaller bites.

"It's progress. It's all part of a larger basket of progress," Carelli said.

There will undoubtedly be some schedule griping. No one is claiming perfection. Improvement, for now, is enough, and that extra week of room being built into the season is already making an impact—even though the first real games are still two months away.

"We don't get scored," Carelli said. "We don't necessarily win or lose, which is nice. The bottom line is that our primary, secondary, whatever goal it is, our goal is about the game. Our goal is about doing the best we can to create the most competitively balanced schedule we can for all the teams."

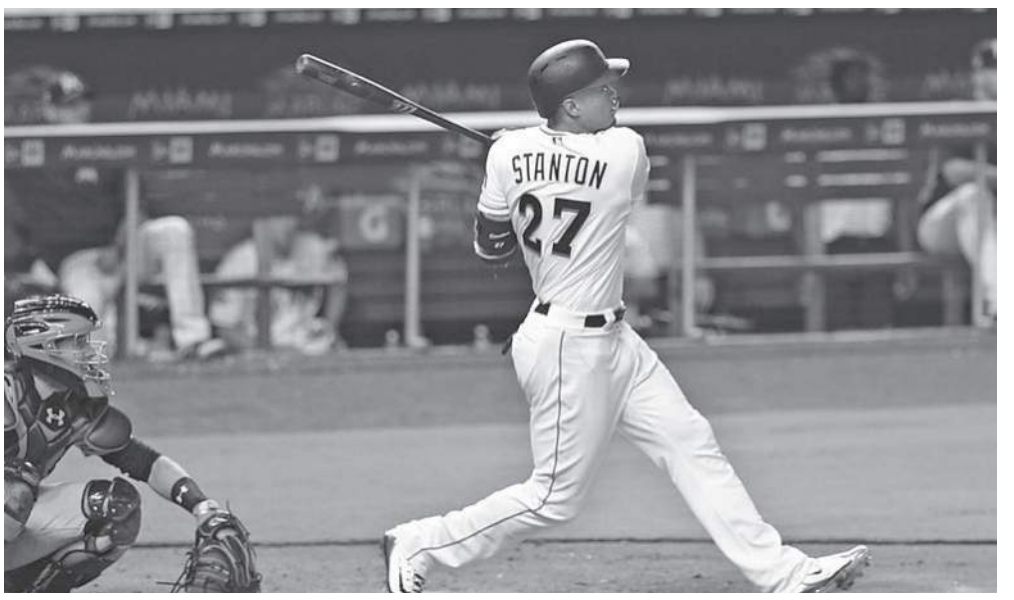
Stanton homers in 6th straight, Marlins fall 9-4 to Giants

MIAMI (AP) — Giancarlo Stanton homered in his sixth consecutive game to give him a major league-leading 44, but the Miami Marlins fell 9-4 to the San Francisco Giants on Tuesday night.

Stanton hit a solo shot to deep left-center field off Madison Bumgarner (3-5) in the third inning, tying the game at 2. He has 11 homers in his past 12 games, and 23 in the past 35. Only Sammy Sosa (25 in 1998) and Barry Bonds (24 in 2001) have hit more in that span, according to Elias.

He is two games from tying the major league record of hitting a home run in eight straight set by Dale Long (1956), Don Mattingly (1987), and Ken Griffey Jr. (1993).

Stanton will look to make it seven straight on Wednesday in the series finale. The Giants will start right-hander Matt Cain. Stanton has four home runs in 22 at-bats against Cain.



AP

Miami Marlins right fielder Giancarlo Stanton looks on as he hits a solo home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017 in Miami.

Dodgers 6, White Sox 1

In Los Angeles, Joc Pederson got hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to force in the go-ahead run in a five-run eighth inning that lifted Los Angeles over Chicago.

The victory pushed the major league-leading Dodgers (84-34) to a whopping 50 games above .500.

Pederson was hit in the right thigh by a pitch from Jake Petricka, forcing home Yasmani Grandal with two outs and opening the floodgates for a Dodgers offense that had been stifled most of the game. Pinch-hitter Austin Barnes and Corey Seager each added a two-run single.

Brandon Morrow (5-0) worked an inning of scoreless relief. Juan Minaya (1-1) took the loss.

Tim Anderson homered on the first pitch of the game from Alex Wood, who went seven innings. The left-hander remained 14-1.

Chicago has lost six straight road games and 10 of its last 11.

Red Sox 10, Cardinals 4

In Boston, Xander Bogaerts had three hits, Hanley Ramirez, Sandy Leon and Jackie Bradley Jr. all added two RBIs and Boston beat St. Louis.

Boston blew the game open courtesy of a wild fifth inning, tallying eight hits and eight runs against Cardinals starter Mike Leake and reliever Matt Bowman. It came an inning after the Red Sox turned their first triple play in six years .

The Red Sox have won 11 of their past 13.

Rick Porcello (7-14) was mostly able to cruise, giving up eight hits and three runs over seven innings to pick up the victory. He has won his past three starts after going winless for more than a month.

Leake (7-11) got the loss and has failed to win in his past four starts.

Nationals 3, Angels 1

In Washington, Gio Gonzalez allowed two hits in six scoreless innings, Howie Kendrick hit two solo home runs and Washington snapped Los Angeles' winning streak at six.

Gonzalez (11-5) struck out four and issued three walks in lowering his home ERA to 1.79, now the best in baseball. The left-hander, who was three outs from a no-hitter July 31 at Miami, allowed his first hit two hits into the fifth against the Angels.

Los Angeles, which had climbed into an AL wild-card spot during its streak, lost for the first time since Aug. 7. Tyler Skaggs (1-3) allowed the two home runs to Kendrick and five other hits while striking out six in five innings.

Sean Doolittle picked up his 12th save of the season and his ninth with Washington.

Indians 8, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Carlos Santana hit two of Cleveland's five home runs and Danny Salazar continued his strong second-half stretch in the Indians' victory over Minnesota.

Santana, Jason Kipnis and Edwin Encarnacion all hit solo homers off Bartolo Colon (4-10) as Cleveland won its fifth straight overall and stayed unbeaten in eight games in Minnesota this season. Austin Jackson added a three-run shot and Santana homered from both sides of the plate for the Indians, who have outscored the Twins 56-16 at Target Field this season.

Salazar (5-5) cruised through seven innings, allowing one run and three hits. He struck out 10 while running his mark to 2-0 with a 1.39 ERA and 46 strikeouts in 32 1/3 innings in five starts since coming off the disabled list on July 22.

Yankees 5, Mets 4

In New York, Sonny Gray outpitched Jacob deGrom, Jacoby Ellsbury and Gary Sanchez homered, and the Yankees held off the Mets to sweep both Subway Series games in the Bronx.

Despite another late stumble by closer Aroldis Chapman, the Yankees kept the Empire State Building lit up in pinstripes with the win. The Mets will try to change the color scheme to blue and orange when the rivalry now shifts to Citi Field for two games beginning Wednesday night.

Gray (7-7) earned his first win in three starts since being traded from Oakland to a playoff contender. He blanked the Mets on four singles until the seventh inning, when he issued a leadoff walk and rookie Dominic Smith followed with his first major league homer.

Chapman gave up an infield single to pinch-hitter Jose Reyes and a two-run homer by rookie Amed Rosario in the ninth, then got two more outs for his 16th save in 20 chances.

DeGrom (13-6) gave up more than four earned runs for the first time in 12 starts.

Braves 4, Rockies 3

In Denver, Brandon Phillips scored the go-ahead run on a rare error by Nolan Arenado, and Atlanta beat Colorado.

Nick Markakis homered for the Braves, who snapped an 11-game skid in Denver.

The game was tied in the eighth when Phillips reached on a one-out double off Pat Neshek (3-3). One out later Tyler Flowers hit a routine grounder to Arenado at third base, but his throw to first was off line and skipped away from Mark Reynolds, allowing Phillips to score from second.

Arenado, who has won the Gold Glove at third in each of his four seasons, has five errors in 306 total chances this season.

Sam Freeman (2-0) pitched the seventh and Arodys Vizcaino worked the ninth for his seventh save.

Rangers 10, Tigers 4

In Arlington, Texas, Joey Gallo and Mike Napoli hit back-to-back homers and Texas beat Detroit to end Justin Verlander's three-game winning streak.

The Rangers had just gone ahead 2-1 on Nomar Mazara's RBI single in the fourth inning when Gallo hit his 34th homer, a towering drive that landed in the second deck of seats in right-center above the Texas bullpen and was estimated at 459 feet.

Napoli followed with a 416-foot shot to left for his 24th homer, and added a two-run single in the Rangers' four-run eighth.

Robinson Chirinos also went deep off Verlander (8-8), who struck out eight without any walks while allowing five runs in six innings.

A.J. Griffin (6-3) allowed one run and struck out four in five innings.

Reds 2, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Scooter Gennett's sacrifice fly drove in Joey Votto to break a scoreless tie in the eighth, and Billy Hamilton singled in a run in the ninth and Cincinnati edged Chicago.

After Votto walked for the third time and advanced to third on Adam Duvall's single off reliever Pedro Strop (3-3), Gennett smacked a line drive to right that Jason Heyward caught on the run.

Cincinnati rookie Luis Castillo allowed only two hits over six innings. Chicago remained 1½ games ahead of both St. Louis and Milwaukee in the NL Central.

Ben Zobrist singled in a run in the ninth off Raisel Iglesias to cut the Reds' lead to 2-1, but Iglesias worked around three hits in the ninth for his 21st save in 22 chances.

Michael Lorenzen (7-2) pitched a scoreless seventh for the win.

Astros 9, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Houston had six extra-base hits in the first four innings, building a big enough lead to top Arizona.

Houston jumped to an 8-0 lead in the fourth inning. Starting pitcher Brad Peacock couldn't get out of the bottom of the fifth, so Francis Martes (5-2) came on and struck out all four batters he faced in 1 1/3 innings for the victory.

Diamondbacks starter Anthony Banda (1-3) allowed eight runs and nine hits in four innings.

George Springer had a two-run double and in the second and scored on Alex Bregman's RBI triple as the Astros opened a 5-0 lead. Peacock added a two-run double in the third.

Rays 6, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Lucas Duda hit a two-run homer, Wilson Ramos added a solo shot and Tampa Bay beat Toronto, snapping a four-game skid.

The Rays came in having scored 12 runs in their past 10 games. According to Elias, that is the lowest total for any AL team over a 10-game stretch since the designated hitter was introduced in 1973. The Rays suffered five shutout defeats in that span, and lead the majors with 10 scoreless losses.

Blake Snell (1-6) allowed one run and four hits.

Alex Colome finished for his 35th save in 40 chances.

Blue Jays slugger Josh Donaldson homered for the third consecutive game, hitting a three-run shot in the fifth. Donaldson has gone deep nine times in 17 games. The blast gave him 500 RBIs.

Marco Estrada (5-8) allowed six runs and 10 hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Brewers 3, Pirates 1

In Milwaukee, Keon Broxton hit a pinch-hit home run, Manny Piña drove in two runs, Zach Davies pitched into the seventh and Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh.

Davies (14-6) allowed six hits, including Adam Frazier's run-scoring triple in the sixth, walked two and struck out two. Jared Hughes took over and retired Josh Harrison on a bouncer back to the mound. Jacob Barnes retired the side in order in the eighth and Corey Knebel pitched the ninth for his 23rd save.

Piña capitalized on Travis Shaw's success against Ivan Nova (10-10). Shaw came in batting .769 (10 for 13) against the big right-hander. He singled in the second and scored when Piña bounced into a fielder's choice with the bases loaded. In the sixth, Shaw walked and scored on Piña's two-out infield hit.

Mariners 3, Orioles 1

In Seattle, Andrew Albers earned his first major league win in four years, pitching five effective innings as Seattle beat Baltimore to snap a five-game losing streak.

Called up from the minors earlier in the day, Albers (1-0) settled down after giving up Jonathan Schoop's 26th home run in the first. He allowed six hits for his first victory since Aug. 12, 2013, when he went 2-5 in 10 starts with Minnesota.

The 31-year-old lefty was acquired in a trade with Atlanta last Friday after going 12-3 at Triple-A Gwinnett.

The Mariners' bullpen finished with four scoreless innings. Edwin Diaz pitched a perfect ninth for his 26th save in 30 opportunities.

Seattle erased a 1-0 deficit with a run in the fourth and two in the fifth off Wade Miley (6-10).

Athletics 10, Royals 8

In Oakland, California, Matt Joyce hit a three-run double to cap a six-run eighth inning and Oakland rallied past Kansas City.

Joyce also homered and had four RBIs. Khris Davis added his 33rd home run and Matt Olson hit his fourth in five days for the A's.

The Royals hit three home runs in the top of the eighth, including Mike Moustakas' 35th, to take a four-run lead before Oakland stormed back against relievers Joakim Soria and Mike Minor (5-5).

The loss prevented the Royals from moving past the Angels in the race for the second AL wild card.

Blake Treinen (1-0) retired five batters for his first AL win.

Drew Butera, Eric Hosmer and Moustakas homered as part of the Royals' five-run eighth. Hosmer also had a two-run double and drove in four.

Padres 8, Phillies 4

In San Diego, Cory Spangenberg homered and had a career-high four RBIs to back seven strong innings from Dinelson Lamet in San Diego's victory over Philadelphia.

Spangenberg hit his career-high 12th homer and third in four games. He also had an early two-run double.

Lamet (7-4) held the Phillies hitless over the first 4 2/3 innings in winning for the fourth time in his last five starts. The rookie tied a career high by working seven innings, allowing two runs and three hits. He struck out seven.

Hector Sanchez had a two-run homer for the Padres.

Jorge Alfaro hit his first major league homer for the Phillies, who have dropped five of six. Rhys Hoskins, called up on Thursday, hit his third home run in two days.

Mark Leiter (1-3) was charged with eight runs, four earned, in five innings.

3 earn promotion at Trench Tech

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Three Trench Tech Brazilian jiu-jitsu students' months of hard work and training finally paid off after they earned their promotion Tuesday night at the Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym.

Promoted were Samuel Alvarez earning one stripe and Giovanni Taitingfong and Paulo Sangalang with two stripes each. Purebred Guam BJJ Academy head instructor/owner professor Stephen Roberto supervised the promotion ceremony.

Alvarez is the youngest of the three at 14 years old and has been training for almost a year now.

Trench Tech gym owner Cuki Alvarez said his nephew has shown significant improvement with his skills despite having Asperger syndrome.

"He's shown significant improvement in his skill set and technique. Although he has an autistic disability, he does not let that bother him and he's shown willingness to further improve," added Cuki Alvarez.

"Jiu-jitsue seems to be an excellent outlet for him to stay active and learn how to live a healthy lifestyle."

Those who have Asperger have difficulty with social interaction and exhibit a restricted range of interests and/or repetitive behavior. Motor development is also sometimes delayed that results to clumsiness or uncoordinated movement according to AutismSpeaks.org.

Taitingfong, who was a frequent victim of bullying while growing up, took up Brazilian jiu-jitsu at Vida BJJ in Guam. The 19-year-old has been an active MMA fighter ever since, competing in Trench Tech-organized events.

Cuki Alvarez said Taitingfong has consistently improved every year since coming back to Saipan three years ago. "He is now a candidate for a blue gi in a few months if he stays on the grind."

Brazilian jiu-jitsue uses the gi as its uniform and it is similar to the ones used by the other Japanese martial arts.

Taitingfong has won numerous MMA events including a gold in the 2014 Takedown Tournament in Guam, the 130-lb white belt division of the Copa de Marianas, and a was undefeated to clinch the wrestling gold in the All Island Wrestling Tournament at the Father Duenas Memorial School.

Sangalang, 25, had his formal BJJ training with the legendary Gracie Barra. He's been training full time at Trench Tech the last five months after Barra closed their academy, and has shown huge advancement with his skills and techniques.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Trench Tech Purebred Gym owner Cuki Alvarez, second right, joins students and other fighters training at the Saipan gym.

CAROL

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then ended Lee's streak with a 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 victory in the quarterfinals. With Lee making it to the Round of 8, she gained 40 ranking points—the most she earned since joining the ITF Juniors Circuit. The Oceania Close is a B2 tournament or the fourth highest in the circuit and the ranking points Lee got in the competition brought her total to 170 (singles only).

In the doubles, Lee was awarded 25 after she and Oleksandra Kalachova of New Zealand defeated Australia's Isabella Bozicevic and Helena Spiridis in the first round, 6-2, 6-3. Lee and Kalachiva then bowed to Smith and Roopa Bains in the quarterfinals, 6-7 (4), 1-6. The CNMI player now has 125 doubles ranking points and 201.25 combined points.

With over four months left in the season, Lee still has a chance to gain more ranking points and hit her target early as she is scheduled to join the Asian Tennis Federation Touring Team that will compete in Malaysia and Thailand in October.

WOO

From Page 28

pull off an upset against No. 2 Naia Guitton of Tahiti in their make-up match in Group B today to remain in playoff contention. Grace Choi is in the same situation as she takes on No. 3 Eleanor Schuster of Samoa in Group D, while No. 1 and two-time division champion Carol Lee will go for a sweep in Group A to formalize her entry to the quarterfinals when she duels Tahiti's Kava Taufa.

In the boys U16 singles, Robbie Schorr and Ken Song are out of the woods, while Michael Ren's playoff chances will depend on the results of the make-up games today. Schorr (2-0) will face Fiji's Shantanu Shail in Group C and a sweep will give the former the No. 1 spot in the pool. Ren is done in pool play in Group A with his 1-1 record and is likely to join No.1 and Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy to the next round, as the latter is expected to win against the Cook Island's Elijah Amataiti (0-1). Ren is in Group D and must beat Marlin Hannam (2-0) of Vanuatu and hopes that Kristen Pavitt of Samoa loses to Tuvalu's Gavin Molotii to keep his playoff hopes alive.

Slight changes in ROP22 fight card

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Slight changes were made in the tentative fight card of Rites of Passage 22: Rampage, set on Sept. 15 at the Marianas Business Plaza, with Robin Eclavea challenging Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez in one of the three featured title matches.

Alvarez was about to defend his featherweight belt against Jarome Cruz, but Eclavea stepped in after his fellow Guam fighter pulled out due to work-related issues.

No changes were made in the two other title fights with Rob "The Deal" Wusstig of Team Tuck hoping to keep the lightweight belt against challenger Min Ju Lee of Korean Top Team, while Trench Tech's Jordan "The Machine" Manglona will defend his flyweight crown opposite Mcklane "The Game" Alfred of Vida MMA Guam.

Alvarez suffered back-to-back injuries while training for two scheduled fights in the Pacific Xtreme Combat and Deep Impact Japan last year. He was also coming off a loss to New Zealand's Mark Abelardo of Team Quest Thailand in PXC 50 in December 2015.

Manglona, meanwhile, will be fighting in a mixed martial arts event for the first time since beating Guam Muay Thai/Underworld Extreme's Scott "Da Slaya" Eclavea (3-3) by split decision PXC 52 in Guam last year.

There were changes in the nine MMA bouts with Jaybo Frederick of Steel Athletics going up against Trench Tech's Kier Agda at 185 lbs, while Korean Top Team's Sung Kwon Kim facing Steel Athletics' Patrick Ungcangco at 155 lbs.

Independent fighter Jesse Mesa replaced Ground Fu's Kyle Gumataotao in a 120-lb bout against Jadrien "Last King" Camacho of Down2Scrap.

The rest of the matches stay the same with Trench Tech's Luis "TwoTwo" Litulumar (65 lbs) facing Team Tinian's William Juanis King (70 lbs) in a kids exhibition match followed by Derrick Evangelista (135 lbs) of Guam Muay Thai clashing with Lenny "Maching Gun" Sablan (140 lbs).

Team Tinian's Kimo Adriano will open up the MMA fights when he takes on Andres "The Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" Camacho at 130 lbs, while Red Ants Academy's JBoy Langu will face Manny "The Kid" Camacho of Zombie MMA in a featherweight bout and Team Tinian's Audrien Cruz meets Zombie MMA's George "Game Over" Grover at 130 lbs.

Rota and Tinian fighters will take center stage in the next three fights with L.D. Ogo, John Mendiola, and A.J. Barcinas of Luta Top Team battling Team Tinian's Perry Mundo, Juschery Castro, and Austin John King at 145 lbs, 135 lbs, and 140 lbs weight classes, respectively.

Sang Hyung Park of Team Ace MMA Korea clashes with Steel Athletics Guam's Seay Camacho at 140 lbs, while standby fighters are Reily Miwata (135 lbs), Austin Kosam (135-150 lbs), Pete Benavente of Vida BJJ (135 lbs), 15-year-old Sitchiro Langu of Rent Ants Academy (155 lbs), and Alejandro Tebit (205 lbs).

MOC

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three events and to manage high expectations, the club's members are working extra hard in their training sessions.

Manning said MOC paddlers train in the water three to four times a week, having short course sessions on weekdays and long course on weekends. They also hold land-based training to improve their endurance, strength, and speed. Some members are also working out at the various gyms on island to supplement the training they are doing as a group.

As for warm-up races for the Micro Cup, MOC just finished ruling a long distance course event organized by Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation. The group will also compete in the second leg of the NMNPSF-sanctioned races on Sept. 16, while a six-man crew will head to Guam for another pre-Micro Cup event set for Sept. 9.

In the Micro Cup, Manning said they are eyeing to send two men's teams. They kept the core of the squad that dominated last year's competition and have several newcomers.

Meanwhile, besides MOC, other Saipan teams expected to join the Micro Cup that will be held from Oct. 26 to 29 are Napu Outrigger Canoe Club, Saipan Paddling Club, and Marianas Pacific Paddlers.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	68	51	.571	—
New York	63	55	.534	4½
Tampa Bay	60	61	.496	9
Baltimore	59	61	.492	9½
Toronto	57	62	.479	11

Central Division

Cleveland	65	52	.556	—
Kansas City	60	59	.504	6
Minnesota	59	58	.504	6
Detroit	53	66	.445	13
Chicago	45	71	.388	19½

West Division

Houston	73	46	.613	—
Los Angeles	61	59	.508	12½
Seattle	60	61	.496	14
Texas	58	60	.492	14½
Oakland	53	67	.442	20½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	71	46	.607	—
Miami	57	61	.483	14½
New York	53	64	.453	18
Atlanta	53	64	.453	18
Philadelphia	43	74	.368	28

Central Division

Chicago	62	56	.525	—
St. Louis	61	58	.513	1½
Milwaukee	62	59	.512	1½
Pittsburgh	58	61	.487	4½
Cincinnati	50	70	.417	13

West Division

Los Angeles	84	34	.712	—
Arizona	66	53	.555	18½
Colorado	66	53	.555	18½
San Diego	53	66	.445	31½
San Francisco	48	73	.397	37½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI Boys U18 National Team Training Camp

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team's Anthony Fruit answers the question of assistant coach Jershwin Angeles during a classroom discussion in the Teen Ayuyus' training camp at the Changnyeong Sports Park in South Korea last week.

The CNMI's Joshua Galarion, center, stays close on defense against a Kyoto Kyoei Gakuen player.

Goalkeeper Clayton Izuka waits for the start of their training session.

Team captain Ryan Relucio, second left, gestures about the squad's movement.

Assistant coach Jonathan Takano talks to the members of the CNMI Boys U18 National Team about nutrition.

Chris Aninzo, in yellow uniform, participates in the goalkeeper clinic conducted by 2002 World Cup veteran Kim Byung Ji of South Korea.

From left, goalie Chris Aninzo, former South Korean national team member Kim Byung Ji, and CNMI head coach Michiteru Mita, pose for a photo at the conclusion of Ji's goalkeeper clinic.

Assistant coach Jershwin Angeles leads the discussion about the Teen Ayuyus' dreams.

LeBron blasts Trump, calls him 'so-called president'

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Stanton homers in 6th straight, Marlins fall 9-4 to Giants

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Carol climbs up to No. 208

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Carol Lee stretches for a return during her and Steven Goodwin's doubles match against Jeff Race and Isabel Heras in last year's TanHoldings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts. Lee is now ranked No. 208 in the world.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Carol Lee is nearing her ultimate goal of making it to the Top 200 in the ITF Juniors world ranking after rising to No. 208 following her quarterfinals appearance in both the singles and doubles events of the 2017 Oceania Closed Junior Championships.

The 15-year-old Lee, who aimed to reach the Top 200 before ending her junior tennis career, started the Oceania Closed held early this month at the Regional Training Center in Lautoka, Fiji ranked No. 240 and jumped 32 notches after winning a pair of games in the singles event and one match in the doubles.

The Commonwealth player, who had already surpassed her target to making it to the Top 300 at the end of the year, defeated Grace Schumacher of Australia in the first round, 6-3, 6-0, and topped New Zealand's Elys Saguil-Ventura in similar scores in the Round of 16 to advance to the quarterfinals. Australia's Megan Smith

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Woo sweeps pool play

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Ji Min Woo was undefeated in pool play of the boys U14 singles competition in the rain-hampered Day 3 of the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Woo wrapped up his Group A assignment with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Tonga's Christopher Maasi yesterday in Lautoka, Fiji, to finish the elimination round with a perfect 3-0 record. Maasi dropped to a 2-1 record, losing to Woo in the battle for first place in the pool, however both players made it to the quarterfinals. Woo and Maasi's Round of 8 foes have yet to be decided as only three games were played yesterday due to rain and make-up matches in the three other groups in the division and in the girls U14 and U16 and boys U16 singles will be played today. Playoff games will also take place today and each match will be shortened (race to 4 instead of 6 per set).

The other Group A match completed on Day 3 was between Vanuatu's Warea Tigona and Fiji's Avokask Kumar with the former winning, 6-0, 6-0, to avoid being shutout in pool play after dropping his first two games. Kumar was winless in three matches to miss the cut. Only the Top 2 teams in each group will advance to the playoffs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ji Min Woo returns a shot to Sean Lee during their game in last year's TanHoldings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Woo and Lee are playing in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

In Group B, the CNMI's Seung Jin Paik fell short against No. 2 Maui Leflon of Vanuatu, 4-6, 6-3, 7-10. Paik ended pool play with a 1-2 record and bowed out of competition, while Leflon (2-1) marched into the playoffs. Guam's Andrew Leng and Tahiti's Meheannu Larson will collide in a make-up game today for the second and last playoff berth in the group.

In Group C, Sean Lee (1-1) will challenge No. 4 Kelese Kofe of Tuvalu in another rescheduled match with the winner joining Tahiti's Manovai Elie (2-0) to the next round.

In the girls U14 singles, sisters Coume and Conatsu Kaga will go for sweeps in their respective pools today with the former meeting Tahiti's Kira Foing Loi in Group D and the latter taking on the Federated States of Micronesia's Anne Skilling in Group C. The Kaga siblings are in the quarterfinals, but need to win their last pool play matches and the Round of 8 games to avoid crossing paths early in the playoffs.

In the girls U16 singles, Malika Miyawaki (0-1) must

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All eyes on MOC paddlers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After their historic feat last year, Marianas Outrigger Canoe paddlers are "marked men" in the 2017 Micro Cup that will be held in Guam this late October.

"We are under the radar before, now we are the 'target' and that situation will make it harder to duplicate what we achieved last year," MOC coach Dino Manning said.

MOC swept the 500m and 1,500m sprints and the long distance race (12 miles) of the 2016 Micro Cup, becoming the first team in the history of the longest running outrigger canoe competition in Micronesia to rule all three events in the men's open division.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas Outrigger Club members paddle back to shore after finishing the 500m race of the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation Sprint Season held last month at Kilili Beach.

"After last year's tournament, everybody knows who we are and what we are capable of. Guam, Palau, and other teams that will participate in the 2017 Micro Cup are definitely doing their best in preparing against us for this year's races," the MOC coach said.

Being the focal point of the 2017 Micro Cup has added pressure in MOC paddlers' bid to defend their title in the

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